

Three Ingenious *Spanish*
NOVELS:

N A M E L Y,

- I. The Loving R E V E N G E :
Or, W I T in a W O M A N.
- II. The Lucky E S C A P E : Or, The
J I L T Detected.
- III. The Witty E X T R A V A G A N T :
Or, The Fortunate L O V E R.

C O N T A I N I N G,

Several Amorous *Intrigues*, Subtle *Plots*,
and surprizing Turns of *Fortune*.

W R I T T E N

By *Don Alouso, Savorfano*, a Famous
Spanish Nobleman; and rendered into *French* by
one of the most refined Wits of that Nation.

Translated with Advantage.

By a Person of Quality.

The Third Edition.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *Edw. Midwinter*, at the *Looking-glass*
on *London-bridge*.

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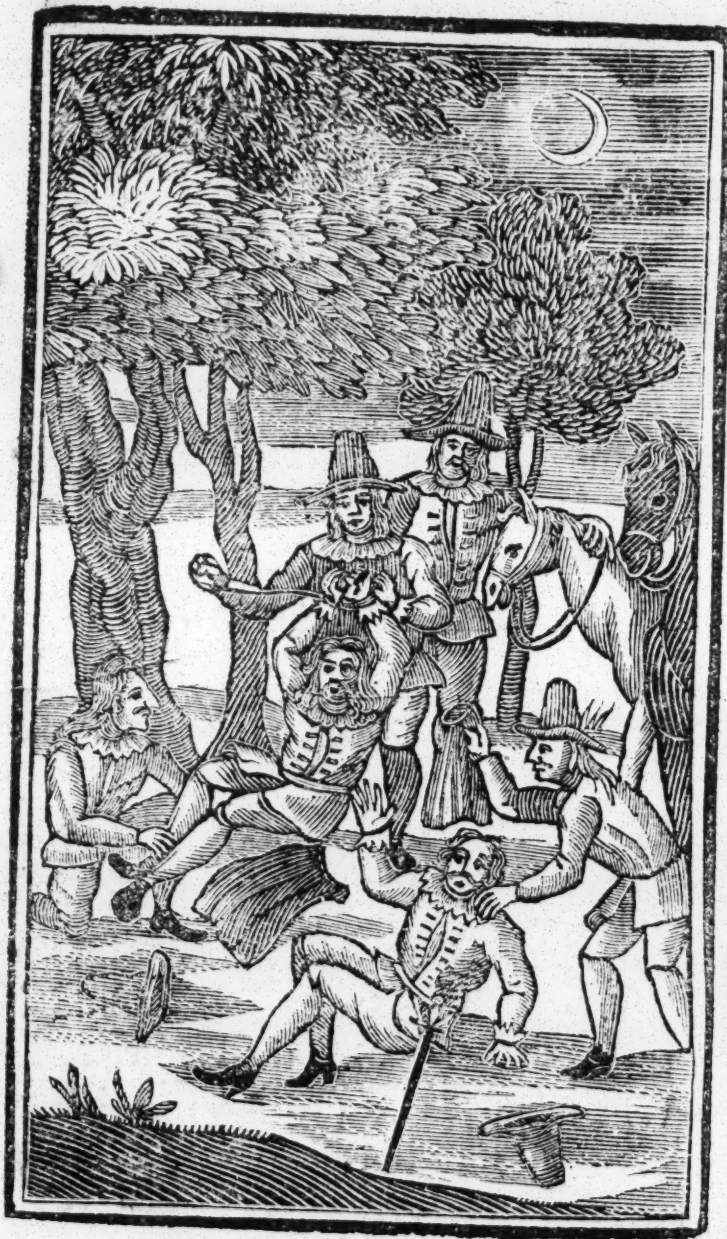
TO THE READER.



THE three following Novels, written by a Spanish Nobleman, who was a very famous Author in his own Country, were thought so diverting, that they were put into several Languages, particularly into French, by one of the principal Wits of that Nation. The several Amorous Intrigues, and surprizing Accidents, and Events, contained in them, make the Relations very probable; none of them being guilty of advancing any monstrous Stories, or apparent Improbabilities, but have all the natural Resemblance and Air of Truth, and of what may happen to Mankind in the several Traverses of Fortune, which they are subject to. This Translation was taken from the French, wherein I have used the Freedom of Alteration and Addition, to make it as divertive as possible in the English Tongue, which is the principal Recommendation of Books of this Kind. If the Reader take as much Pleasure in reading it, as I did in rendering the same into our Language, I have my End; there being many Things therein that may be Instructive, as well as Pleasant, and as the Poet says,

He certainly does hit the White,
Who mingles Profit with Delight.

J. D.



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T H E
L O V I N G R E V E N G E :
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N O V E L I.

IN the Great and Famous City of *Sevil*, the Metropolis of *Andalusia*, a Country containing so many noble Families, and excellent Wits, the Treasury of all the Wealth which flows into *Spain* from the *West-Indies*, was born Don *Pedro de Ribera*, a very accomplished Cavalier, of the Illustrious Family of the Dukes of *Alcala*, so highly esteemed all over the Kingdom. By the Death of those from whom he derived his Being in this World, there fell to him an Estate of four Thousand Crowns a Year, upon which he lived very nobly at *Sevil*, being the most remarkable Person in all Publick Actions done about that City. He had at *Madrid* a Cousin German who followed the *Spanish* Court, and was gone thither about

some Affairs of great Importance, which he had brought to a happy Issue. Having lived there a while, he liked it, and the Conversation of the Cavaliers inhabiting it so well, that he exchanged the Place of his Birth for that illustrious City. He there became intimately acquainted with an old Cavalier, whose Name was Don *Juan de la Cerda*, a Person who was generally esteemed for his excellent Endowments; and was likewise honoured with the Illustrious Order of *St. James*, and a Commander of Two Thousand Duckets a Year. This old Gentleman was a Widdower, having but one only Daughter, to whom all his vast Estate was to fall at his Death. Nature seemed to have made it her Business to enrich this young Lady with all the Graces and Perfections of her Sex, which occasioned the Envy of all the Ladies of the Court toward her, since in Point of Beauty she had the same Advantages over them as the Sun hath over all the Rest of the Planets: Her Father, Don *Juan*, wished her married to one equal to her Estate and Parentage. Don *Rodrigo de Ribera*, (so was called Don *Pedro's* Cousin, whom I spoke of first) might have aspired to the Honour of making his Address to her, as well on account of the Family from which he was descended, as the familiar Acquaintance between him and her Father Don *Juan*; but being a younger Brother, he thought his Circumstances too mean to pretend to such an advantageous Match. However, he thought fit to make some Proposals to the Old Gentleman on behalf of his Cousin Don *Pedro*, who dwelt at *Sevil*, whom he highly recommended to him for his excellent Qualities, and the greatness of his Estate, for he was the only Son of a Noble House.

House. Don Juan entertained the Motion very kindly, but withal thought it prudence to make further Inquiry into the Business, as being sensible, that Persons are usually very partial when they speak in behalf of their own Relations, and think it no mortal Sin to exceed the Truth: So that Don Juan immediately writ to a particular Friend at *Sevil*, earnestly desiring him to give him an Account of the Person and Estate of Don Pedro de Ribera, inasmuch, as it highly concerned the Honour of his House to meet with a Cavalier worthy of his Alliance, to be the Husband of his only Daughter *Donna Brianda*.

In a short Time he received an Answer, wherein his Friend confirmed all that *Don Rodrigo* had said of his Kinsman, with somewhat more, protesting, in the Conclusion, that he was so far from being partial, or insincere, in the Account he had sent him, that he had rather told less than the Truth. He thereupon went to Don Rodrigo, and acquainted him, that he might write to his Cousin, and assure him, he should be very welcome, if he had any Inclinations for his Daughter: He made Answer, he would do it; and Don Juan, as a farther Obligation, would have his Daughter's Picture sent him, that he might therein observe some of the rare Qualities that were in her, permitting his Cousin to be present at the taking of it, that he might assure Don Pedro, that the Painter had not flattered her, and that the Copy was short of the Original.

Don Rodrigo failed not to write to his Cousin, to whom also he sent the Picture, celebrating the Virtues of that amiable Person which the Painter could not represent, as he had done

the Lineaments of her beautiful Countenance. His Cousin *Don Pedro*, upon the Receipt thereof, was extreamly pleased, and referred it to him to make some Overtures in the Treaty of Marriage till he came thither himself; for the further Prosecution whereof he sent him a full Authority.

In the mean Time, *Don Pedro* made Preparations for his Journey to *Madrid*, to wait upon his Mistress, who having received his Picture, was as much taken with it as he was with her's: So leaving his Retinue at *Sevil*, till his rich Liveries, then making, were finished, he began his Journey, having only one Person to wait on him, and a Groom to look to their Horses, who followed them at a little Distance. *Don Pedro* always carried about him his Lady's Picture, inclosed in the same Letter wherein his Cousin had sent it him. Being arrived within half a Day's Journey of *Toledo*, he sent away the Groom to provide Lodgings for them in the City. He had entertained at Dinner some of the Inhabitants of *Orgaz*, which was the Place where they had baited; which being ended, they fell to Cards: He lost his Money, and was vexed, which made him play on to recover his Losses, and by that Time it was later than he could have wished. He took Horse, and he and his Man put forward, but before they had rid a League, Night surprized them so that they lost their Way, and got in among certain Olive-Trees about half a League short of *Toledo*: Not knowing where they were, and fearing to go too far out of the Way, they thought it necessary to alight and rest themselves under one of the Olive-Trees till Morning. They accommodated themselves the best they could, and Weariness soon laid them asleep, little dream-

ing of the Misfortune that attended them. Being in their first Sleep, which is commonly the soundest, Four Men came very softly to the Place, the Noise of the Horses bringing them thither; and these were of a Profession, who are generally employed more by Night than by Day: They had been upon a Design, but miscarried, and so were returning, somewhat disconsolate, with empty Pockets to *Toledo*.

Coming up to them, and finding them both asleep, they tyed their Hands behind them, and took away all they had but their Wastecoats and Drawers, and to get off with more Speed and Safety, they made use of their Horses. Don *Pedro* being thus unfortunately surprized, was exasperated thereat, but his Servant told him, that it was his own Fault, because he would not give over playing sooner. They continued their Discourse till the Birds gave them Notice that it was Day; soon after, hearing the Noise of some Cattle not far from them, they called to the Shepherd, who coming up to them, unbound them, very much bemoaning the Condition they were in; they asked him how far it was to *Toledo*, not half a League, saith he, adding, that if they would go along with him to a Country House hard by, he would gladly shew them the Way, and that he doubted not but the Lady who lived in the House would relieve them in that Extremity. They took his Advice, and he brought them to a very fine House; having knocked at the Gate, it was immediately opened by an old Man who was a Steward to the Lady, and had the Oversight of the Shepherds, and the Profits arising from the Sheep. The Shepherd who brought them thither went in to the

the Lady, and in few Words gave her an Account of what had happened to these Strangers, and the Condition he had found them in, whereupon she ordered them to be brought into her Presence. Don *Pedro* presented himself to her, seeming much concerned to see him self almost naked, having about him only an old Coat which the Shepherd had lent him. He told her that he was going to *Madrid* about a Law-suit of great Importance, not discovering who he was, only telling her, he was a Gentleman of *Sevil*, named Don *Ferdinando Sanchez de Triegno*. The Lady whose Name was *Donna Victoria*, was much disturbed to see him in that deplorable Condition. There were in the House two Trunks of Cloaths of a Brother's of her's who died not long before; she ordered two Suits to be brought out, which they put on; that which Don *Pedro* had proving so fit, that the Lady was much taken with his Person, and had her Eyes always fixed upon him. She invited Don *Pedro* to dine with her, which he did, taking often Occasion to make extraordinary Acknowledgements of the Favours he received from her.

They continued two Days in that Country House before the Lady made any discovery of the Affection she had for Don *Pedro*, but only with her Eyes, which were the silent Interpreters of the Trouble she was in: Don *Pedro* was not insensible of the same, and discoursed thereof with his Man; yet he had not the Confidence to tell him what he really thought of it, being upon the Point of disposing him self otherwise. The Servant advised him not to let slip so fair an Opportunity, telling him, He should not be

so hard harted towards a Lady of so great Worth, and one that had so highly obliged them: The Solitude of the Place, the Handsomeness of the Lady, and the silent Discoveries she made him by her Gestures, obliged *Don Pedro* to answer her Affection. He entered into some Love-Discourses with her; but though she was really in Love with him, yet she would not grant him her last Favours unless he first assured her she should be his Wife, and that she had a Promise of it under his Hand.

Don Pedro on the other Side, had so great a Kindness for her, that he had in a manner forgot the Mistress whose Picture he carried about him; and advising with his Servant (who was a dangerous Confident, and a subtil Fellow) what he should do, he told him very roundly, that he ought to make use of such a favourable Opportunity, that he might easily gratify his Fancy by giving her Promise of Marriage as she desired, provided he did not put his own Name to it, but subscribe the pretended Name he had assumed, since she knew neither his Country nor Extraction. *Don Pedro* followed his Advice, and thereupon had his Desire of *Donna Victoria*, continuing there four Days; at the End whereof, acquainted the Lady, that his Business at *Madrid* was of such Importance, as required his personal Attendance there, she consented to his departure, on Condition he would return again as soon as he could, which he with Oaths promised to do. The next Morning betimes he departed, leaving the Lady almost drowned in Tears; but ne'er he had gone far, he received the Chastisement, which he deserved for his Prodigiousness; for the Horse he was mounted on, being

being given to Start, gave him a Fall, whereby he so sprained his Foot, that he was forced to make some stay at *Illescas*, a Place half-way between *Toledo* and *Madrid*, and to send for a Surgeon to set all right again.

Leaving him there confined to his Chamber for some Days, let us return to *Donna Victoria*, who very much bewailed the Absence of her Gallant, the Remembrance of whom occasioned no small Affliction. A Servant of her's, in making the Bed where he lay, found under the Pillow the Picture of the Lady to whom *Don Pedro* was to be married, folded up in a Letter which his Cousin had writ to him from *Madrid*, which she brought to her Mistress, who opening the Paper saw the Picture, at which she was much disquieted, but was more surprized when she cast her Eyes on the following.

L E T T E R.

DEarest Cousin, you will receive here inclosed, the Picture of the Lady *Donna Brianda de la Cerda*, which is very exactly taken from the Original ; I doubt not but the Charms of her Beauty will oblige you to hasten your Departure. Her Father, *Don Juan de la Cerda*, expects you with much Impatience ; in the mean Time the Contract of Marriage is drawing up, and will be ready before you arrive here to sign it. Assure yourself that you will be extreamly satisfied that you have found so excellent a Wife.

Your affectionate Kinsman,

Don Rodrigo de Ribera.

Donna

Donna Victoria had scarce read over this Letter, but through the Vexation she received thereby, she fell into a Swoon, and continued therein half an Hour in the Arms of her Maid: At last, recovering her self, she vented her Grief in a Multitude of Sighs and Tears. She railed at the *Sevillian* Impostor, but much more at her own Simplicity, that she had so lightly prostituted her Honour to an unknown Person, whom so strange an Adventure had brought to her House. She spent the whole Day in weeping and bewailing her Misfortune, but considering withal what Danger she and her Reputation were in, she resolv'd it should not be said of her that she had been so scurvily affronted by any Man; whereupon, with the Discovery which she had made from the Letter of the Occasion of his Journey, and the Person to whom he was to be married, she made Preparations for removing to *Madrid*, where she had a Kinsman, to whom she might communicate her Intention. She then declared her Design to *Albert*, an old Servant of hers, who had brought her up from the Cradle, and was very glad to wait on her.

Upon this Resolution, she caus'd two Waggon's to be laden with all Things necessary to furnish a House fit for a Person of Quality, and began her Journey to *Madrid*. Being come thither, she order'd her Servant *Albert* to enquire where *Don Juan de la Cerda* dwelt, and whether the young Cavalier, whom he intend'd to make his Son-in-law, were come to *Sevil*; she understood by him he was not yet come, but that they daily expected him, which much troubled her, who knew nothing of the Accident that had happened to him near *Illescas*. The first

first Thing this abused Lady did, was to take a House for herself near *Don Juan de la Cerda's*, and ordered *Albert* to live in it, as the Master thereof. This done, she sent him to *Don Juan's*, to enquire of his Daughter, whether she wanted a waiting Gentlewoman, intending to disguise her self so as not be known to *Don Pedro*: This Message had the Effect she desired, for *Donna Brianda* was then enquiring for a Widow to wait on her, a Custom much practised in *Spain*, where Ladies of Quality have several of them, who being Widows, they call *Duenna's*. When this was proposed by *Albert*, who was to personate the Father of his Mistress, *Donna Brianda* was not only willing to receive her into her Service, but her Father *Albert* was also entertained into the Service of *Don Juan*. *Albert* gave his Mistress an Account to his Negotiation, wherewith she was extreamly satisfied; so having put on the Habit of a *Duenna*, she went the next Day to present her self to *Donna Brianda*, conducted by her pretended Father *Albert*; they were both kindly entertained by *Don Juan* and his Daughter. *Donna Victoria* could have heartily wished the young Lady had not been so handsome, that so her Gallant might not have fallen in Love with her at first Sight; however, she courageously resolved to prosecute the Imposture she was engaged in.

Donna Brianda asked *Albert* what Countryman he was, who told her, That he was born at a Place called *Urvera*, near *Sevil*; and that his Name was *Stephen Santillana*; (by which we shall henceforth call him) that his Daughter had been married to a Merchant of that City, who died in a Voyage to the *West-Indies*, leaving
so

so great Debts behind him, that all his Estate went to satisfied his Creditors. Don Juan hearing this Counterfeit *Santillana*, say, he was of *Andalusia*, asking him whether he had lived any Time at *Sevil*, he replied he had been often in that City, but that his Daughter had lived there. Don Juan would not at that Time enquire any farther, nor enter into Discourse with him concerning *Don Pedro de Ribera*.

Donna Victoria being entertained as a Duenna, to *Donna Brianda*, she took such an Affection to her, that she trusted her with her Keys, to the Envy and Discontent of her other Servants who had dwelt with her many Years. *Santillana* told them, he had a House of his own not far from *Don Juan's*, and a Wife, (for *Marcella* an ancient Maid of *Donna Victoria's*, was to act that Part) whereupon he had no Lodgings assigned him at *Don Juan's*.

It is now time we return to *Don Pedro de Ribera*, who being recovered of his Fall came to *Madrid*, and alighted at the House of his Cousin *Don Rodrigo*, who was much concerned that he arrived no sooner. He acquainted him with the Occasion of it, and gave him an Account of all that had passed in *Donna Victoria's* Country-House, even to the Promise he had made her under a feigned Name. *Don Rodrigo* asked him what Quality the Lady was of, who replied, that her Name was *Donna Victoria de Sylva*, and descended from one of the most Noble Families of *Toledo*. *Don Rodrigo* was very much dissatisfied with his procedure, reproaching him with the unworthy Action he had done, in abusing and dishonouring that Lady, and that it was to be feared she might hear of his coming to

to *Madrid* in order to be married to another, and find Means to be revenged of the Affront.

They afterwards fell in Discourse concerning *Donna Brianda*, and *Don Pedro* told him, he extremely fancied the Picture he had seen of her, but that he had been robbed of it, with the other Things he had lost; though he was sensible he had left it under the Bed's-head at *Donna Victoria's*, which much disturbed him; however, he dissembled the Matter. *Don Rodrigo* acquainted *Don Pedro*, that it was proper for him to provide other Cloaths before he waited on his Mistress, and that he must keep within till they were ready. In two Days Time a handsome Riding-Suits were brought him, wherein, pretending he was newly come to Town, he goes to the House of *Don Juan de la Cerda*, by whom he was received with great demonstrations of Kindness. Notice was presently given to *Donna Brianda*, that the Person designed for her Husband was coming up into her Apartment, where she was with her Maids about her, who had just made an end of dressing her. *Don Pedro* coming in, conducted by *Don Juan*, and *Don Rodrigo*, was extremely satisfied with the Sight of his Mistress, whom he civilly saluted, being a Person of admirable Wit and Address. He found by the Sight of *Donna Brianda* that the Painter had not flattered her, a Vice which that Profession is much subject to, especially upon such Occasions as this was. He was surprized to see so great a Beauty; and on the other Side she was well satisfied with the handsome Personage of *Don Pedro*.

There were some Things yet to be done in order to the absolute Conclusion of the Marriage,

riage, at which there was Necessity of *Don Pedro's* Presence ; whereupon he, *Don Juan*, and *Don Rodrigo*, withdrew into another Room, where they locked themselves up with a Notary, and some Friends, who were to be Witnesses to the Articles of the Agreement. *Donna Brianda* continued all that Time with her Servants, talking of *Don Pedro* her Spouse, every one congratulating her good Fortune, but *Don Victoria*, who saying nothing at all, her Mistress observed it, and being afterward alone with her. ' *Theo-*
' *dora*, said she, (that being the Name she had
' assumed) how is it, that while all the Rest
' celebrate the Happiness of my Choice, you
' only are silent ; methinks you might have
' joined with the Publick Congratulation,
' though you have done it only out of Complai-
' sance ; pray tell me the Meaning of it ?

Donna Victoria had done this on purpose, in Order to prosecute her Design, and this Question came in as seasonably as she could have wished ; whereupon she returned her this Answer :
' As to the Person of *Don Pedro*, Madam, there
' is nothing to be objected against it ; nay, he
' is so accomplished, that there is not any Thing
' to be desired in him wherewith he is not fur-
' nished. My Silence proceeds from hence, that
' I had a particular Knowledge of him at *Sevil*,
' for I lived in a Quarter of the City which
' he much frequented ; I neither will, nor
' ought to conceal from you the Occasion
' of his so often coming thither, for it is my
' Duty to be faithful to you, as having no
' other Design but to serve you, and endeavour
' your Felicity, so that you may not live un-
' happily all the Rest of your Days : Know
' then,

then, Madam, that if you Match your self with *Don Pedro*, you will be reduced to a kind of Civil Death, instead of enjoying the Contentment of a married State. *Donna Brianada* was much astonished at this Discourse, and very importunate with her *Duenna*, to discover more fully what she had a Desire to tell her ; retiring into more privacy where they might not be observed, *Donna Brianda* gave her the following malicious Account of the Perfidious *Don Pedro* :

Madam, I should not shew you the Respect and Duty I owe you as a Mistress, nor the Affection I have for you, if I did not freely acquaint you with an Affair wherein so nearly concerned, and on which depends your greatest Happiness in this World : Know then, Madam, that *Don Pedro* fell in Love with a Lady at *Sevil*, who was very handsome, and well descended, and, in a Word, wanted nothing but a Fortune suitable to her Quality. He courted her with so much Passion, that she being moved with such Demonstrations of his Affection, by Letters and continual Embassies, attended with Presents from *Don Pedro*, complied with his Desires, upon Promise of marrying her, whereof there are many Witnesses. But the Business was to be kept secret for a Time, for *Don Pedro's* Father was then alive ; who having received some Intelligence of the Matter, endeavoured all he could to prevent *Don Pedro's* Marriage with *Donna Elvira de Monsalva*. (so was the Lady named. The continuance of his Visits to her produced living Proofs of their Familiarity, which were two Sons and a Daughter,

Daughter, who are at this Time with their Mother. When *Don Pedro's* Father was removed out of the Way, by the Fate common to all Mortals, which happened not long after, *Donna Elvira* expected he should have performed his Promise and Marry her; but he, for some Time, came not so much as to wait upon her. What Inconveniencies she was put to from the Time of their Acquaintance, he knows to his Sorrow, and I am not ignorant of them, for I lived near her, and went often to her House. Being now convinced that he designed to abandon her, she discovered the Business to two Cousin Germans of her's, who were so enraged thereat, that they immediately resolved, to oblige *Don Pedro* by Force, to perform the Promise he had made to their Kinswoman. *Don Pedro* retired to a Farm he had not far from *Sevil*, to avoid his Enemies, who knowing he concealed himself, on purpose because he would not be Just to their Cousin, resolved to be the Death of him. Things were in this Posture when my Father brought me to *Madrid*, where I have been above six Weeks. This is the Account I can give you of *Don Pedro*, who must not think himself secure in this Court; for the Lady's Kinsmen, whom I know to be gallant and stout Persons, will soon hear of his being in this City, and will attend this Motion, and revenge the Affront done to their Cousin, since it will be easier for them to do it here, than at *Sevil*.

Donna Brianda gave great Attention to this story by her *Duenna*, and was related extremely concerned, to hear *Don Pedro* was so far engaged

gaged with another : She asked her a thousand Questions, as whether he was much in Love with that Mistress? Whether *Donna Elvira* was very Handsome, &c. To which she gave such Answers as were proper to her Design, which was to throw *Don Pedro* quite out of her Favour. *Donna Brianda* resolved to give her Father an Account of all, and to leave it to him, to inform him self more certainly of the Matter. She immediately went to the Room where he was to tell him of it, for all Things were concluded about the Marriage.

In the mean Time, *Donna Victoria* was left in the Outer-Room, where the Women and *Duenna's* are wont to wait ; when a Servant of *Don Pedro's* came in to them, whom he had sent to the Post - House, for Letters from *Sevil* and enquiring for his Master to give him the Packet, *Donna Victoria* told him, *He was within* and that as soon as he came out she would deliver it to him. Having opened the Packet she instantly writ a Letter, which she put in to it, and sealing it again, came where he Mistress was, Who asked, *Whether she was going with those Letters ?* The other replied, without the least discovery of any Malice. *That they were directed to Seignior Don Pedro, and had been brought thither a While before by one of his Servants from the Sevil-Post.* Curiosity was the Crime of the first Woman, and it is very fruitfully spread through the whole Sex. *Donna Brianda* found herself infected therewith upon this Occasion, wherein she was more excuseable, considering the Story that had been so lately told her by the subtle *Duenna*. She was tempted to open the Packet, wherein finding one Letter

written

written in a Woman's Hand, (which was that written by *Donna Victoria*) she could not forbear opening it, and casting her Eye to the Bottom, found it subscribed by one *Donna Elvira de Monsalvo*. She read it, and was thereby confirmed in what before she did not fully believe.

The LETTER.

My Dearest,

YOUR Absence, and my Indisposition, have reduced me to such Extremity, that I despair of having any longer Time to live, it being impossible I shou'd survive, after the News I have heard, of your Resolution to be married at Madrid; which you cannot perform, without being transcendantly treacheous to a Person, who is so nearly engaged as I am to you: You know you cannot bestow on another what is lawfully due to me, especially if you make the least Reflection on the precious Pledges that are between us; I have no other Advice to give you, since Things are come to this Pass, but that if you have abandoned all Shame and Conscience, yet to remember that Heaven sees, and passes a Judgement on them; and that I have many noble Friends, who will measure the small Account you make of them by your slighting of me, and will not fail to revenge the Affront done to our Family. I hope I shall not be forced to these Extremities, considering how highly you are obliged to act suitable to the Nobility of your Birth, and to acknowledge, as you Honour ought, her, whom, while we both live, you must always account

Your Lawful Wife,
Donna Elvira de Monsalvo.

By

By this Letter, *Donna Brianda* was entirely persuaded of the Truth of all that the *Duenna* had informed her ; and her Father coming just then into the Room, she put the Letter into his Hand. Upon Reading it was very much surprized to find, that a Cavalier of so noble a Family, had abused a Lady of such Quality ; and that having Children by her, he should be so imprudent, as to make his Addresses to his Daughter ; however, he would not reproach him therewith, till he had better informed himself from a Friend of his of *Sevil*, who was then at *Madrid*, whom he immediately went to look for.

Don Juan was hardly gone out of Doors, but *Don Pedro* and his Servant came in ; for his Man having told him, that he had delivered the Packet to one of *Donna Brianda's* Women, he was come to receive it from her, since it was not come to his Cousin's, whither all his Letters was directed. He happened to meet *Donna Brianda* in the Outer-Room where her Father had left her. ' I should not have returned so soon, my dearest Lady, said he, had not some what extraordinary obliged me thereto ; it is to receive some Letters, which my Servant tells me he delivered to one of your Women. She thought, said *Donna Brianda*, that you had been still with my Father ; and I casually meeting her, as she was coming into the Room, asked her what she came for ? She answering it was to deliver you the Packet, I took it from her, and presuming, that a Cavalier of your Age and Complexion, could not have resided so long in *Sevil*, and not have an Inclination for some Lady, a particular

particular Humour of Curiosity and Jealousy made me presume to open it; this Curiosity hath done me a Courtesie, having satisfied me in some Matters which before I only suspected, and therefore forbear to excuse my self, since I have thereby happily received such good Information before I was any farther engaged with you; for it might have come too late, and then I had been ruined. Here is a Letter, from a Person whom it seems you are well acquainted with, which would have been enough to undeceive me, but now it only confirms a Relation I had received before; upon which I was almost resolved, to give such a Check to your Pretensions to me, that you should have had but little Encouragement to continue them; farewell, my Presence will but disturb you; this Letter will acquaint you with what you are not ignorant of.

Don Pedro taking the Letter from her Hand, was not a little surprized, nor imagining what had happened to him. He read it, and instantly concluded it was a Trick put upon him by some envious Person, who designed to obstruct his Felicity; and meeting with *Donna Victoria*, whom we told you he did not know, in her Widow's Habit; 'Ah! Madam, said he, what Forgeries are these? I, a Mistress at *Sevil*, and of this Name? I Children by her, and that upon a Promise of Marriage? If it be not the greatest Falsity that ever Humane Malice invented, let me never look Man in the Face again. For my Part, replies the subtle *Duenna*, I find myself inclined to believe, that what you say may be true, but your main Concernment, is to bring my lady to that

B

' Persuasion :

' Persuasion : I know her to be of such a Humour, as not to be easily freed from a Resentment which she entertains upon just Grounds ; and I much question, whether she will permit you to make any farther Address to her ; for I know, she hath already acquainted her Father with the Affair, and that he is gone to a Gentleman of *Sevil*, an intimate Friend of his, who is now in this City. I am very glad of it, says *Don Pedro*, for he will find it an absolute Imposture, and that there is not any Lady in *Sevil* who goes by the Name of Donna *Elvira de Monsalvo* ; but I beseech you, Madam, to acquaint me, whether your Intimacy be very great with the Lady Donna *Brianda* ; so great, returned she, that I am the only Person in her Favour, and to whom she is pleased to communicate her most secret Thoughts. Then, says *Don Pedro*, it's possible you may procure me the Favour, that I may vindicate my self to her : I much question, said she, whether she will ever speak to you again, for she is extreemly incensed against you, and when once justly angry, is the hardest to be appeased of any I know. But, said he, you being so much in her Favour, may, I doubt not, prevail somewhat with her, by representing the extraordinary Affection I have towards her ; I believe it is in my Power, replied she, to procure what you desire ; but what will you give me, if I can obtain a favourable Audience for you ? Any Thing you can desire, said he, if you regard only Matter of Advantage. You see I am very Young, said she, and may hope to be married again : Money is the only Thing I want : If I per-

form

form what you wish for, may I rely on your Liberality for my Reward? You may perceive, says he, how earnestly I desire it, therefore do what I require, and I will make your Fortune heavier by five hundred Crowns. I most humbly thank you, replies she, but I must acquaint you, Sir, that I have been formerly deluded by the Verbal Promises made me by a Person of your Quality, so that I have Reason to mistrust all such Obligations, unless they are given me in Writing: I hope you will please to excuse me, Sir, if my Fear of being deceived has forced me to these Precautions, and to assure your self, that these being complied with, I will endeavour to serve you to the utmost of my Power. To give you entire Satisfaction, Madam, in this Point, help me, says he, with Pen, Ink, and Paper, and you shall have whatever Security you can desire.

Donna Victoria resolving to see the Issue of it, brought what he desired. *Don Pedro* kept his Word; nay, either out of Ignorance of the Form of Obligations, or to express the Earnestness wherewith he desired she should assist him, he proved so liberal, that he gave her a Blank Paper sealed and signed with his own Name, not mentioning the Sum whereto he obliged him self, but telling her he had not specified out of a Design to requite her beyond his Promises, proportionably to the Service she should do him, in the Recovery of his Mistress's Favour. This happened according to her Wish, that acknowledging the Kindness of *Don Pedro*, she promised her utmost Endeavours to serve it, by bringing him into the good

Graces of *Donna Brianda*. The Amorous Cavalier having an entire Confidence in her, took his leave. *Albert* coming in soon after, *Victoria* gave him an Account what Progress she had made; and putting into his Hands the blank Paper signed by *Don Pedro*, ordered him to write above his Name a formal Promise of Marriage; dating it about the Time of his being at her Country House, near *Toledo*, with two Witnesses; which *Albert* did, imitating as near as he could *Don Pedro's* Hand.

That Day *Don Juan* failed to meet the Gentleman of *Sevil*, and put off the Visit he intended him till the next. In the mean Time *Donna Victoria* found that *Donna Brianda* was resolved to carry her Maiden-head with her out of the World, rather than to have *Don Pedro* for her Husband; and having already trusted her *Duenna* with some of her Secrets, she thought she might now absolutely discover her self to her; and thereupon acquainted her that before her Father had treated upon a Marriage between her and *Don Pedro*, she had been courted by a Person of Honour, named *Don Sancho de Leyba*, that she had some Inclination toward him, and that the Persuasions of her Father, had prevailed with her to entertain the Applications of *Don Pedro*, but having discovered his Unworthiness, she was resolved to resume her Affection for *Don Sancho*.

Donna Victoria was in an Extasie of Joy at the hearing the News, for she seemed almost assured that her Design would take; and the more to promote it, she disposed *Donna Brianda* as much as lay in her Power, to favour *Don Sancho*. *He must needs be displeased with me*, said

me, but a Letter under my own Hand will soon engage him to be my humble Servant. The subtile Duenna offered to be the Bearer of it, on Condition she might do it by Coach. Donna Brianda was very glad to find her Woman so ready to serve her, especially in a Business wherewith she was so much pleased; so she commanded the Coach to be made ready, and writ a Letter to Don Sancho. Donna Victoria took Coach, pretending to go to Sancho's House, but went to her own, and bid the Coachman return to Donna Brianda, and tell her, that for fear Notice should be taken of the Coach, she would go on foot to the Place where she had sent her, conducted by Santillana her pretended Father. From that House she writ two Letters, one to Don Juan, desiring him to come to her; the other to Don Sancho, to the same Effect, with Directions to find the House.

Having dispatched these Letters to the Places assigned, she put off her Widow's Habit, and cloathed herself like a Person of the highest Quality, expecting these two Visits, with the accustomed Ceremonies of Spain. Don Sancho was not long before he came, though he knew nothing of the Person that had writ to him. Many Compliments had not passed between him and Donna Victoria, e'er Word was brought her, that Don Juan de la Cerda was alighted out of his Coach, and coming into the House. Sir, said she to Donna Sancho, I am obliged to speak privately with the Person who is coming up; not but that you may hear the Discourse we shall have together; and therefore let me intreat you to be an Ear-witness of all we say, for it concerns you more than

‘ you Imagine, and will prove to your Advan-
 ‘ tage : Don *Sancho* complied, not knowing what
 might be the Issue of this Precaution.

Don *Juan* being entred the Room and Seated
 Donna *Victoria*, whom he knew not in that
 Dress, began to discourse him in this Manner
 ‘ I doubt not, Sir, but you may somewhat
 ‘ wonder, that you are invited by a Letter to
 ‘ this Place, and that from a Person unknown
 ‘ to you ; to free you from this Confusion, I
 ‘ will give you an Account of my self. I was
 ‘ born in the City of *Toledo*, the only Daugh-
 ‘ ter and Heir of the House from which I am
 ‘ descended, which is the Family of *Sylva*, so
 ‘ well known all over *Spain*, that I need say no
 ‘ more of it as to my Quality, I am to acquaint
 ‘ you, that my Father, in his Time, was ho-
 ‘ noured with the Order of St. *James*, and my
 ‘ Brother with that of *Alcantara*, with the Com-
 ‘ mand of a Troop of Horse under the King of
 ‘ *Spain* in *Flanders* ; upon his Death, I retired
 ‘ to a Country-House I have in *Toledo*, where I
 ‘ dwelt privately, contenting my self with the
 ‘ innocent Enjoyments of a Country Life, with-
 ‘ out the least Acquaintance with Love, or the
 ‘ Disturbances of it, till at length, a Shepherd
 ‘ of mine brought to my House two Men
 ‘ who had been robbed and stripped the Night
 ‘ before by some Highway-men ; I took Com-
 ‘ passion of them, especially of him, who by
 ‘ his Mein seemed to be the Master ; and out
 ‘ of two Chests of my Cloaths my Brother had
 ‘ left, I furnished them with two Suits, where-
 ‘ with they covered their Nakedness ; they
 ‘ seemed to be very thankful for so seasonable a
 ‘ Favour, but the more considerable of the Two
 ‘ hat h

hath treated me very ungratefully, which is the usual Method of Courtiers, and hath requited my charitable Offices only with Flatteries and Deceit; I was so weak, as to be deluded with the Caresses he made me, during the four Days he continued at my House, and prevailed so far from my Inclination, that I was no longer at my own Disposal. The repeated Vows, Oaths, and Protections of a Person of that Quality, he declared him self to be, raised me into a Persuasion that he really loved me, and that induced me to render him Love for Love; to be brief, upon a promise of Marriage he made me; I granted him the last Favours. He pretended his going to Court was for the Prosecution of some Law-Business of great Concernment to him: He desired my leave to go to *Madrid*, promising to return again in a short Time, with such Demonstrations of Love and Kindness at parting, as might easily have prevailed upon one, who had not had such a tender Passion for him as my self. I furnished him with all Things necessary, and he left me extremely disconsolate for his Departure; but by a Picture and a Letter he left behind under his Pillow, I found that the Occasion of his coming to this Court, was in order to a Marriage, between him and that Miracle of Beauty *Donna Brianda*, your Daughter. Now our Honour being the most valuable Thing, and which we ought to be very tender of, I thought my self obliged to come to this Court, and make Application to my Friends, that by their Assistance I might prevent the Match he is about, and you will perceive I may easily do it when I know what

' Cards I have to play ; in order to which, I
 ' thought it proper to acquaint you with my
 ' Disgrace, and the Dishonour I have received
 ' by the Acquaintance of Don *Pedro*, and his
 ' Treachery toward me ; that hearing it from
 ' my own Mouth, you may not be too hasty
 ' to finish what is already designed between
 ' you and him. With the Paper I have here
 ' I will prosecute him to the utmost, is under
 ' his own Hand and Seal, and Witnesses to it ;
 ' be pleased, Sir, to read it over, and see whe-
 ' ther I have no Reason to prosecute this un-
 ' grateful and periured Man, and to compel
 ' him to perform the Promise he had made
 ' me.

Don *Juan* was surprized at this Relation of
 Donna *Victoria's*, and by the Paper he had per-
 rused, concluded, that Don *Pedro* was a fickle,
 impudent Person, who pursued his Enjoyments
 without any Thought of the Consequences of
 them, and thereupon he resolved wholly to
 break off the intended Marriage between him
 and his Daughter. The Paper Donna *Victoria*
 had put into his Hands contained these Words :

This present Contract, written with my own Hand,
and sealed with my own Seal, Witnesseth, that I Don
Pedro de Ribera, an Inhabitant of Sevil, acknow-
ledge my self to be the lawful Husband of Donna
Victoria de Sylva, an Inhabitant of Toledo, and
that I will perform the present Promise I make her
of Marriage, whensoever I shall be by her thereto
required. Signed, and Sealed in the Presence of
Albert, and Marcella, Servants to the said Donna
Victoria.

Don Pedro de Ribera.

Don

Don Juan being acquainted with the Hand and Seal of Don Pedro; ' Madam, said he, I am much concerned, that Don Pedro, a Person of so noble a Family, should be guilty of such an unworthy Action, and Carriage so full of Treachery; since at the very Time when he gave you this Writing he was coming hither on purpose to marry my Daughter; but the Account you have given of him is such, that I assure you I will have nothing more to do with him, since you have so much Reason to oppose the Match: Prosecute your own Right, Madam, and leave him not till you have obtained what you desire, and be assured I will assist you to the utmost of my Power, since I find your Honour so highly concerned in it: I have some Friends in this Court, and those of no mean Power, all whom I will engage to serve you; and you shall be sensible, that I am a Person who prefers the Justice of your Cause before my own Interest.

Donna Victoria gave him repeated Thanks for so great a Favour, and the Tears that fell from her Eyes in the close of her Discourse, heightened his Zeal and Tenderneſs for her.

Don Juan carried along with him the Writing which Donna Victoria had shewn him, that he might thereby induce Don Pedro to acknowledge his Fault. With these Protestations he took leave of Donna Victoria, promising to make her a second Visit in a short Time, and to return the Contract of Marriage, repeating the Desire he had to serve her. He thereupon left her, giving Don Sancho the Liberty to come upon the Stage.

As soon as he was Seated, ' You have understood, ' Sir, said she, by the Discourse I have had with ' Don *Juan*, what hath passed between me and ' Don *Pedro*: upon which Account as you have ' heard from her Father, you find he is never like ' to be a Husband to the Fair Donna *Brianda*. She ' sent me hither to acquaint you, that what had ' been done on her part, in order to the Marri- ' age between her and Don *Pedro*, was purely out ' of compliance with the Commands of her Fa- ' ther, and that she is glad of the Occasion she ' now hath to renounce him, and re-assume that ' Kindness and Affection she ever had for you; ' what I tell you, this Letter, written with her ' own Hand, will confirm. Don *Sancho* having ' read it, was the most satisfied Man in the ' World, to find his dying Hopes beginning ' to revive again.

Donna *Victoria* perceiving it to heighten his Satisfaction, continued her Discourse to him in the following Terms, ' I know, Seig- ' nior Don *Sancho*, you will be surprized to hear ' how this Letter came into my Hands, and I ' alone can unriddle it. Being in Love, as you ' are, you need not doubt, but I used the most ' subtle Articles I could invent, to secure the ' Love of an inconstant Person, to whom I ' had given such indearing Pledges of my Af- ' fection, and let nothing unattempted to re- ' cover my Honour, and oblige him to make ' that Satisfaction which is due to me. I came ' to this Court, with a Design to get into the ' Service of Donna *Brianda*, and have affected ' it; for though you see me in this House which ' was taken upon my Account, I live in her's, ' & waiting upon her in the Quality of a *Dama*,

a Part I have assumed the better to delude Don Pedro, and to do all that lay in my Power to put him out of his Mistress's Favour, which I have also so far prosecuted, that I am well satisfied, there will never be any Marriage between them; and that she is wholly inclined to favour you. Now consider with yourself what you would have me say to your Mistress, for I am just now going to put on my Widow's Habit, and must go back presently, for I am afraid she thinks I have staid too long already; If you will return her an Answer, you have all Things requisite to do it; I think it proper you should, that Donna Brianda may perceive how particularly I have obeyed her Commands. As to the Secret of my Disguise, I pray conceal your Knowledge thereof, since it concerns me to keep the same Secret for a while. I rely on your Discretion, and knowing you to be a Person of Honour and Worth, I presume you will not discover it.

This Discourse very much surprized Don Sancho, who, thereupon, applauded her Courage and Generosity, returning her a thousand Thanks for the Favour she had done him, in entrusting him with the Secret of her Love, wishing for an Opportunity to acknowledge and requite so great an Obligation. He promised her never to disclose any Thing till she commanded him to do it, and thereupon seeing her in haste to be gone, he writ a Letter in Answer to that he had received from his Mistress, compose of Amorous Expressions, and Protections of Fidelity till the last Moment. While he was writing,

writing, Donna *Victoria* put on her Widow's Habit, and made all possible haste to Don *Juan's*.

In the mean Time, Don *Pedro* highly resenting the Imposture put upon him, acquainted his Cousin *Rodrigo* therewith, whereupon they went both to Don *Juan's*; he not being within, they asked for Donna *Brianda*, who came out without any Ceremony to receive their Visit, that it might be the shorter, for she had no great Inclination to see Don *Pedro*. The poor Gentleman endeavoured to vindicate himself, swearing a thousand Oaths, that he never heard of any Lady in *Sevil*, of the Name mentioned in the Letter, and that, no doubt, some envious Person had contrived it; and that if Don *Juan* should, upon Enquiry, find it to be true, he would be content to lose his Honour and Life, nay more, the Hopes of ever enjoying her.

The Assurance with which he pleased his Innocence, put Donna *Brianda* into some Doubt, but what she had heard was only a Contrivance advanced on purpose obstruct his Pretention, and referred it to the Discovery that her Father should make of the Matter. Her Answer therefore was, That not being at her own Disposal, it was her Duty to comply with the Sentiments of her Father; and consequently, she could not free her self from the ill Impression she had received of Don *Pedro*, till she was better informed of the Truth; that her Father would return ere long, and she could take no Resolution without his Orders, in a Business of such great Consequence.

While

While they were engaged in this Discourse, Don *Juan* came in from the Visit he had made to Donna *Victoria*. Don *Rodrigo* made him a short Discourse of what had happened, and renewed to him the just Complaint which his Cousin had reason to make of the Crime laid to his Charge; whereupon they both intreated him to suspend his Opinion, till there was an exact Enquiry made in the Business: Don *Juan* desired them to sit, and returned this Answer:

‘Gentlemen, I went Abroad in Hopes to be informed by some Friends of *Sevil*, now in this City, whether that which is imputed to Don *Pedro* were true, and could not meet with them; but if I had found them, it’s possible they might know nothing of the Business; for *Sevil* is a large City, and some parts of it lye at such a great Distance from others, that they may well be accounted different Places. What I found most certain is, that Don *Pedro* hath made a Promise of Marriage to a Lady at *Toledo*, who entertained him at a Country House of her’s, after he had been robbed by certain Thieves; and what is yet more to be considered, she thought it not much, to secure her Affection by the forfeiture of her Honour: I have it from the Lady her self, who sent for me, and delivered me the Contract under his own Hand, for which we all know there can be no Evasion.

He thereupon shewed it to both the Cousins, who were surprized to such a Degree, that they knew not what to say, especially Don *Pedro*, who sufficiently betrayed his Guilt by his Astonishment, yet swore withal, that he had not signed

signed that Contract with his own Hand, but under a feigned One. But Don *Rodrigo* knowing all the Circumstances of this Affair, was most liberal in his Reproaches to his Cousin, which raising some Compassion in Don *Juan*, he thus discoursed him ; ‘ We find by daily Experience, ‘ that a young Man, who is fallen in Love, ‘ will do any Thing to compass his Desires : ‘ That Love should overcome you I do not wonder at it in the least ; but what occasions my ‘ Astonishment is, that you should have the ‘ Confidence to address your self to a Person of ‘ such Quality as this Lady is, and dishonour ‘ her, without ever considering that in Time ‘ she might acquaint her Friends therewith, ‘ who would be sure to revenge the Affront ; and ‘ what aggravates your Fault is, that you presumed ‘ to do such an Action when you are coming hither, on purpose to Marry my Daughter ; for ‘ whom, if any Credit may be given to your ‘ Letters, you pretended to have such real Passion ; I do not find, how your Heart could be ‘ capable of such a Competition in Love, that ‘ you should pretend the greatest Inclinations ‘ imaginable for one, and treat of Marriage ‘ with another. Being a Person of Honour, I ‘ do not doubt but you will make it appear in ‘ your Actions ; that is, to perform the Promise ‘ you have made to the Lady *Victoria*, though it ‘ were only out of this Consideration, that it ‘ argues a more generous Temper to do that willingly which you will otherwise be compelled ‘ to ; the Lady is not so destitute of Friends as ‘ you may possibly imagine ; she now is at *Madrid*, come on purpose to do her self Justice, ‘ which no doubt she will ; and her Cause being

‘ so

so right, 'tis not probable she will want Assistance. My Advice is, that to prevent the Scandals, which may arise upon this Account, you will perform your Promise; and let not the Thoughts of my Daughter any longer discompose you, for I am resolved to shut her up in a Cloyster the remainder of her Life, rather than she shall ever be your Wife.

He ended with these Words, and without farther Compliment retired into another Room. Donna *Brianda* followed him; and the two Cousins without replying one Word went Home; where Don *Rodrigo* fell into bitter Expostulations with his Cousin, for his being engaged in so unworthy an Action. Don *Pedro* had nothing to reply, but he was astonished, how that Contract came to be signed with his own Name, whereas it was made under a feigned One.

Leaving him in that Confusion, making several Affections on the Adventure, let us return to the pretended Waiting-Woman, who was come back to Don *Juan's*, and had delivered Don *Sancho's* Letter to Donna *Brianda*. She was extremely well satisfied with it, as fearing he would not have been so easily retrieved into her Service, Donna *Brianda* acquainted her, that Don *Pedro* and his Cousin had been there, and what had passed between them and her Father, and that he had absolutely dismissed them; it being discovered, that Don *Pedro* had committed another Impertinence, having made a Promise of Marriage to a Lady of *Toledo*, who was come Express to *Madrid*, to obstruct his Pretensions to her. Donna *Victoria* pretended to be mightily surprized, and fell into Exclamations against Don *Pedro*.

In the mean Time, a Messenger came to Donna *Brianda*, from a the Cousin of her's, inviting her to a Comedy, which was to be represented at her House that Night, who returned Answer, that she would come. Donna *Victoria* having made such a successful Progress in her Business, thought of an Invention to bring it to an absolute Period, for she had the Management of all. She told Donna *Brianda*, that if she pleased to wave her going to the Comedy; she might have a Meeting that Night with Don *Sancho*, in a secure Place, namely, at her Father's House, where she might do what she pleased her self. The Lady had a great Kindness for Don *Sancho*, and was desirous to prevent the Reproaches he might make upon her former disregarding him, and therefore readily accepted of the Offer made by her Woman. She immediately sent for *San-tilliana*, and gave him a Letter for Don *Sancho*, whereby he was desired to come that Night, at Eight, to Donna *Victoria*'s House. He was sent with another to Don *Pedro de Ribera*, acquainting him, that Donna *Brianda*, notwithstanding the Indignation of her Father, and her own seeming Aversion, yet she was resolved secretly to Marry him, and desired to meet him at a House whither the Bearer would bring him, and that he should not fail to be there at Nine. The two Cavaliers received their Letters with much Satisfaction, especially Don *Pedro*, who having been so lately discharged, was now recalled to joyn Hands with Donna *Brianda*; and imagined that it was done by the Intercession of her Waiting Gentlewoman, to whom he thought himself extreamly obliged, and the Present he had made her well bestowed. The two Gallants

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failed not to come according to the Affination ; and in the mean time, Donna Brianda and her Duenna took Coach, leaving Don Juan at Home ready to go to Bed ; they went to Donna Victoria's House, which she pretended to belong to Santilliana, where they were received by Marcelana, who personated her Mother-in-law. While Donna Brianda was expecting the Arrival of Don Sancho, she sent Albert with a Letter to Don Juan to this Effect.

The LETTER.

SIR,

MY Lady Donna Brianda, instead of going to see the Comedy, whereto she had been invited, is come to my Father's House, with a Resolution to be secretly married to Don Pedro, notwithstanding our Prohibition to the contrary ; I conceived it my Duty to inform you thereof, it is your Business to take what Course you think fit to prevent it ; for my Part I have done all that was in my Power, and I shall not need to fear being reproached by you, since I have sent you timely Notice of her Intention.

Donna Theodora.

Santillana was dispatched with this Letter, with Order not to deliver it till Half an Hour after Nine. Don Sancho failed not to come exactly at the Time appointed, and was directed to his Mistress, who gave him such Satisfaction as silenced all his former Complaints. Victoria locked them up together in a Room. Soon after Don Pedro came likewise, and was disposed by Victoria in an Apartment without Light ; alledging, it concerned him to be concealed, and not to make any Noise, assuring him it would not be long e're his Mistress came to him. He promised

promised to comply in all Things, and continued there, till Donna *Victoria* had put her self in a Dress suitable to her Quality. She then went into the Room, and speaking very low, she easily deceived Don *Pedro*, and persuaded him he was much in his Mistress's Favour.

Leaving these young People thus matched, let us return to Don *Juan*, who received the Letter from the Duenna just as he was getting into Bed. The Old Gentleman was surprized at the Contents, and going out of Doors, attended by *Albert*, he went to the Commissary's House which was hard by. The afflicted Man acquainted him with the Posture of Affairs; whereupon, the Commissary taking some of his People to attend him, they went to *Albert's* House, where, after some Time, they were let in; they had happily brought a Lanthorn with them, which did them good Service, they found the House without any Light. They kindled a Torch, and went into several Rooms, in one whereof, finding Don *Sancho* and Donna *Brianda*, the Commissary asked him what they did there? Don *Sancho* replied, he was there with his Wife, which was confirmed by Donna *Brianda*: Don *Juan* would have killed him upon the Spot, had not the Commissary informed him, that she was not with the Person he imagined; that the Gentleman was Don *Sencho de Lybera*, a Person of great Quality, and well known at Court. Don *Juan* thereupon was appeased, and could do no less than approve of the Marriage, though it were only out of Satisfaction, that she was not fallen into the Hands of Don *Pedro*, whom he hated extreamly for the odd Pranks he had played.

They went thence toward another Room which

which was locked, and thereupon threatening to break open the Door, Don *Pedro* opened it within, and coming out tells them confidently, that he was there with Donna *Brianda* his Wife, and that it was with her Consent he was invited to that House to Marry her. Upon this Discourse, Donna *Victoria* came out and said, ' You are deceived sweet *Seignior Don Pedro*, I am not the Woman you think me to be, but Donna *Victoria de Sylva*, who expects from you the Reparation of her Honour, to obtain which, I was obliged to put myself into the Service of Donna *Brianda*, and waited on her in the Quality of a Duenna : ' Don *Juan de la Cerda* looking on her a little more strictly, knew her, as did her Lady Donna *Brianda* ; and both of them reflecting on the Intrigues she had managed for retrieving her Honour, highly applauded her Conduct and Contrivances, and blamed as much the Unworthiness of Don *Pedro*, who finding him self condemned of all, was convinced of his Fault, and once more confirmed the Promise of Marriage he had made her. Don *Sancho* and his Mistress were ensured to each other, and the Solemnity of the Marriage was appointed to be Eight Days after. They proved both very happy in their Spouses, by whom they had many Children, who were the Joy and Comfort of their Parents. Don *Pedro* reflecting on the subtle Adventures, whereby Donna *Victoria* engaged him to his Duty, rightly judged them, to be so many extraordinary Demonstrations of her Affection toward him, which the more endeared her to him, considering with how much Ingenuity she had managed the Matter. For Wit in a Woman is a great Influence of Love, especially if she make it appear at a dead List.

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T H E

Lucky Escape:

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 N O V E L II.



ALENTIA, one of the most eminent Cities in *Spain*; a Kingdom that has produced so many Noble Families, and Ingenious Spirits, and the Sacred Receptacle of the Bodies of divers Saints, gave Birth to Don *Alexander*, a Person of Noble Extraction, Young, and Master of all those excellent Qualities, for which Men are loved and admired. He having left his Country about twelve Years before, in the Company of an Uncle of his, who had the Command of a Troop of Horse in *Flanders*, behaved himself with so much Gallantry in those Parts, that he was in a short Time advanced to be a Cornet under

under his Uncle, who dying, he supplied his Place, and so continued in the Service of his Catholick Majesty King *Philip III.* against the revolted Provinces of the Low Countries. He was at last, in compensation of his Services, honoured with the Order of *St. James*, and the ordinary Sallery belonging thereto.

During that Part of the Year which makes a kind of Cessation of Arms in those colder Countries, he resigned in the City of *Antwerpe*, where, by certain Letters from *Valentia*, he received the News of his Father's Death, which made him, being the eldest Son, Heir of a very considerable Estate. He might now indeed have lived very plentifully on his own, and pursued his Pleasures, as many other Cavaliers did, who place all the Felicities of this Life in the criminal Enjoyments of Sense ; but being a Man of an Heroick Spirit, he chose rather to continue the Exercises of War, that by a sudden Exchange of Employments fully his Reputation, and incur the Reproach of a Person impatient of Hardship, and inclined to Effeminacy. This Consideration discovers him to have a more Noble Soul than those young Beaus, who prefer whole Skins, the shameful Blandiments of Ease, and the Warmth of their own Fires, before the Honour, which a Person truly deserving that Name, shall endeavour to purchase in the Service of his Prince and Country. But Don *Alexander* considering withal, that he could not, upon the News of his Father's Death, avoid taking a Journey to *Valentia*, in order to settling his Estate, desired leave of his most serene Highness the Arch-Duke *Albert*, who understanding the just Occasion, easily condescended

led offending him, upon his return what Advancement he could reasonably expect, which obliged him, to give his Highness the greatest Assurances to come back to *Flanders*, though contrary to the Sentiment of many of his Acquaintance, who now judged, that he had abandoned the Military, to follow the most pleasant Diversions of a Civil Life.

Being come to *Valentia*, he was tenderly caressed by his Relations and Friends, and soon applied him self to management of his Affairs, without trifling away his Time in unprofitable Amusements, whereto young Men are but too much addicted; for though he was a Souldier, yet he took no Delight in Gaming, a Humour for which he was much valued, considering his Age and Quality; since Gaming occasions a thousand Mischiefs and unhappy Accidents, whereof not a few had happened in *Valentia*. Nor was *Alexander* as yet inclined to Love, though he could not want Occasion to exercise his Courtship, and the Knowledge he had acquired in the Misteries of Love and Eloquence, since the great Number of fine Ladies added much to the Lustre of that City. His ordinary Employment was exercising his Horses, of which he kept four excellent ones, extreamly well managed, which he had bought in *Andalusia*, and on which he engaged in the Bull-Fights, according to the Custom of the Country, shewing himself in that Diversion more dextrous than any of the Bravoes of the City.

It is a Custom in *Valentia*, that at the Beginning of the Spring, for about fifteen Days together, most of the Families of the City go to manage their Silk Husbandry, which they have

in

in the adjacent Villages One Day, Don *Alexander* rid Abroad into the Country, through that delightful Plain which is adjacent to a Garden not far from *Valentia*, known by the Name of the Monastery of our Lady of Hope. Having diverted him self the whole Afternoon, among those pleasant Gardens, and with the sweet Scent of the Flowers of the Orange-Trees, where of good Store grew thereabout; the Sun being then withdrawing his Light and Heat from us, to enliven the rest of the Terrestrial Globe, he passed by a Country House, not far distant from the delightful River of *Turia*, where he happened to hear, at a small Distance, one playing so melodiously on a Lute, that he imagined he had never heard any Musick comparable to it. He stopped his Horse, supposing that the Party who played so excellently on an Instrument might likewise sing to it. He expected a while with much Impatience, but the Musician putting the Lute into several different Tunes, at length began to accompany it with her Voice. In the mean Time Night came on, and Don *Alexander* even ravished with the Place he was in, gave his Horse to his Lacquey, and causing him to withdraw at some Distance, he staid alone under the green Ballcony whence the Musick came, to discover who was the Author of it. He had not waited long, e'er he could perceive by the Light of the Moon that it was a Lady, who taking the Opportunity to come into the Balcony, to partake of the Refreshment of the Cooling Breeze of Wind which then blew, began afresh her pleasant Musick, where to, she sung, an Air with an excellent Voice which made an absolute Coquest over that Heart wherein

wherein all the Fatigues of War could not make the least Breach ; whence we may reduce this Remark, That Love can do more in a Minute, than War in a Seige as long as that of *Troy*.

In short, the excellency of her Voice, and the transcendant Dexterity of her Hand, transported our young Gallant, that he wished she might never give over till he was tired with that admirable Diversion. The Lady at length laid by her Instrument, and leaning over the Balcony perceived her young Gallant, whom her Musick had so long detained, which he observing, resolved not to loose the happy Minute, and thus address'd her ; ' How extream happy, Madam, must that Gentleman be, who deserves so excellent a Voice to bemoan his Absence? I should be joyful to be acquainted with him, and to inform him of his good Fortune, who is so passionately regarded by so deserving a Lady as you seem to be.

The Lady somewhat concerned that she was over-heard, recovering from her Surprise, returned the following Answer to her unknown Spark ; ' As to the Song you heard, Sir, you are not to imagine it sung out of Tendernefs to any Person, now far from me, you may therefore spare your self the Trouble to learn who he is, and consequently, to tell him, what a Favour I have for him in your Imagination. What Assurance have I of that, said *Alexander*, considering what I have heard from your sweet Lips, apparently discovers the predominant Passion of your Soul? And how, I pray Sir, are you concerned in that, replied she? Very much, Madam, cries he, for your enchanting Voice hath had such Influence over
C , your

' your Adorer that heard it, that it is not with
 ' out Reason he requires the Assurances he de
 ' sires you to give him, thereby to prevent the
 ' Disquiet which his Mind might otherwise
 ' suffer.

The Lady could hardly forbear laughing at
 this Discourse of Don *Alexander's*, telling him
 That Women act prudently, when they are flatter
 ed, not to believe any Thing which Men say
 to them, insomuch as they seldom speak accord
 ing to the Reality of Things, but represent
 them as they appear to their infatuated Imagina
 tions. ' Wherein, pray Madam, do you
 ' think that I have said any Thing short of the
 ' Truth? Mistake me not, replied she, I do
 ' not charge you with coming short, but going
 ' beyond it; for you are so prodigal of your Com
 ' mendations, of a Person you are very little ac
 ' quainted with, nay, have not so much as tak
 ' en a full View of, that you must either smile
 ' at my Weakness, or think that I have a very
 ' favourable Opinion of myself, if I should
 ' give any Credit to what you say. And to
 ' convince you either of your Errour, or your
 ' palpable Flattery, I will only give you one In
 ' stance of many; that when I myself, and
 ' others, whose Judgements I may depend upon,
 ' are of Opinion that I do not sing tolerably
 ' well, you would endeavour to persuade me,
 ' that my Voice has put you into an Extasie,
 ' when another would not have a Minute's Pa
 ' tience to hear me. Nay, Madam, replies he,
 ' take heed your Reproaches return not upon
 ' your self, in making you guilty of denying
 ' the Truth: You have an admirable Voice,
 ' and the Subject of your Song must needs be

some

some worthy Person, since it cannot be imagined you sung them in vain; and to make them perfect, there needs only the mixture of a little Jealousie, were it not that the happy Man upon whose Account those Words were made, cannot give you any Cause.

Upon this, the Lady removed from the Place where she was, that she might the more commotionously proceed in her Discourse with Don Alexander, though she knew him not, for she imagined he could not talk thus without some Ground, therefore said, ' If you take any Compassion, Sir, between that Enchantment you speak of and the Suspicion you seem to have, I am of Opinion, that you are well read in the Art of Flattery, and therefore, I beseech you, attribute not a melancholy Humour I am troubled with, to the Concerns I have for the Absence of any Person, for I was never yet affected with any such Thing as Love, and I think I shall never be so as long as I live. I would part with all I have in the World, said he, upon Condition what you say was true. Would your Hazard be very great in that, replied she? Very little, said he, considering the Account upon which I proffer it; but I should say no less were I possessed of the Universe, and think it well bestowed. I am extreamly happy, answers the Lady, to hear Things so highly uttered to my Advantage; but I must be transcendentally vain to imagine, I should influence any Person with Love before I am seen by him; nay, I dare affirm, that if you had reviewed my Face you would not haply be so resolute. My Hearing cannot deceive me, replies he, and I presume, that the Person who

The Lucky Escape :

is so agreeable to that Sense, may gratifie all the Rest, but which the envious Night permits me not a sight of at present; and when you observe that in my Discourse with you I have not talked of Beams, Flames, Splendor nor in such affected Terms, as are made use of by those that flatter, and abuse Ladies, you should in some measure assure your self, that I have some real Passion for you, Well, to humour you a little, says she, I have some Inclinations to believe you, which will be much increased when I come to understand who you are. I have a Desire, returned he, to deserve it by my Services, that if there be any Thing wanting in me as to Quality, I may hope by these to supply that Defect? Nay, then I am satisfied, said she, that you are a Person of distinction, when you shew such a distrust of your self. Excuse me, Sir, if I am obliged to leave you, to receive some Company newly come into the House, and it would be very improper for me to be found here. Do me the Favour then, says *Alexander*, to admit me to wait on you here to Morrow at this Time? I do not know whether it will be in my Power, however, do not fail to come hither; and though I may be prevented from giving you the Meeting, yet I shall think my self much obliged to you. I will infallibly wait on you, says the enamoured Gallant, for my Resolutions are as fixed as the Sun in the Firmament. Your last Words, replied she, will find my Thoughts some Diversion to deceive the Hours, if I should not Sleep to Night, but when you come, forbear, I beseech you, Sir, your flattering Commendations, and be not so liberal

liberal of your Hyperboles, which are displeasing to my Ear, who am of Opinion that they are only made use of by Flatterers, and consequently no great honourers of the Truth, especially considering how little I deserve them.

She then, with a very obliging Farewel, withdrew out of the Balcony, with some Disturbance to *Alexander*, that he could enjoy her Company no longer, who was extreamly pleased with her Discourse, as well as with her Voice. He had a great Desire to know who she was, and she had the same Curiosity concerning him, for she instantly commanded a Servant to follow him, and not to return till he had discovered who he was; which he did without much Trouble; for, not far from thence he saw him get on Horseback, and knew him, and presently returned with the News to his Lady, who was overjoyed to understand it was *Don Alexander*, of whom she had heard such great Things, and seen him behave himself so gallantly at the Bull-fight.

Don Alexander upon his return Home, enquired of a Neighbour of his, who that Lady might be, with whom he had held Discourse, acquainting him where she lived; by whom he was informed that her Name was *Donna Isabella*, a Lady of great Repute in the City, and of extraordinary Endowments, whose Understanding was equal to her Beauty, Daughter to *Don Antonio*, a Person of great Reputation for his Service in the Wars; who having abandoned the Military Life, married when he was well advanced in Years, and left that fair Daughter, who was now Fatherless and Motherless, with a very inconsiderable Fortune; in regard her Father's Estate consisted most in Pensions bestowed

on him by King *Philip II.* in requital of his Services. This Lady lived with an Aunt of hers an ancient Gentlewoman, who for the most part kept her Bed, and was then retired to that Country-House to look after her Silk Husbandry.

Thus was *Alexander* fully informed of all he desired to know, though he had already received a particular Account of her Perfections ; the City of *Vlencia* being full of Discourses of her Wit and Handsomeness ; having likewise the Reputation of writing good Verses, an Accomplishment much admired in a Person of her Sex and Quality. *Alexander* had not yet seen her, but was very desirous of that Happiness, which made him ride Abroad the oftener to that Country-House, in Hopes to be favoured with the like Opportunity ; but was not so fortunate, in a considerable Time, her Aunt being so sick that she could not stir from attending upon her. About fifteen Days after, the old Lady being a little recovered, she had the Liberty to go and see the Profession of a Nun, (or the Manner how young Women are entered into the State) at the Royal Monastery of *Zaide*, which was not far from the Country-House. At which Ceremony, all the Gallantry of *Valentia* of both Sexes were present ; *Donna Isabella* came thither also, but being covered with her Mantle, and attended only by one of her Women, she went into a little obscure Chappel.

Alexander who failed not to be there, in Hopes to meet her on whom he had fixed his Affection, was a little concerned not to find her among the other Ladies, but suspected she might be one of those who retired into that Chappel,

he

went in to them with two other Friends, and observed a Lady whom he suspected to be *Isabella*, said, 'The new made Nun is not much obliged to these Ladies, who withdraw into a Place where they cannot view those Ceremonies, which all the Rest are desirous to see; but I attribute this Indifference to the little Inclination they have to enter themselves into a Nunery.' *Isabella* was not a little pleased to see *Alexander*, whom he shad a Sight of, before in the Church, and wished he had been alone. However, altering her Voice, she returned him this Answer; 'Being not invited to this Solemnity, we cannot expect the same Welcome as those that are; and for the little Curiosity that we discover, to see the Ceremonies used at the Reception of a Nun, we having been present at them several Times before, do not so much regard this, since the observing of it once does sufficiently satisfy any Person, who is inclinable to enter into that Profession. Nay, then I find, Madam, says one of *Alexander's* Friends, you are not one of that Number, who have a Desire to retire from the World. Sir, replied she, a Person cannot enter into this State of Life, unless she be thereto called by Heaven; a Favour which I do not find is yet bestowed upon me. We may then infer from this Discourse, Madam, that you are not married, but desirous to be so. What my Inclinations are as to Marriage, answered she, I am not obliged to give you an Account, who are no ways so nearly related to me, that I should acquaint you with my Resolution, in a Matter of that Concernment; however, Madam, you may satisfy us so far,

' says *Alexander*, as to let us know which Con-
 ' dition of Life you would rather choose
 ' Which, pray, Sir, would you advise me to
 ' replied she? That of Matrimony, answered
 ' *Alexander*. What, whether I have the Acco-
 ' modations requisite to enter into that State or
 ' not, replied she. If all be wanting, says he
 ' then you must endeavour to forget your self
 ' for she who is not born to be a Nun, and can
 ' not be married, must remain Neuter, as being
 ' incapable of both. I could very well follow
 ' this Advice, answered she. But if you please
 ' Madam, added he, to discover what your
 ' Mantle enviously conceals from your Sight, I
 ' will give you farther Instructions.

Coming up near to her, as if he were assured
 of that Favour, she met his Desires, and design-
 edly gave him a View of one of her fair Eyes,
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 ' If the Advice you intend to give me, said she,
 ' should prove to my disadvantage, it were bet-
 ' ter I should still remain undiscovered, espe-
 ' cially if I did not think fit to answer your Ex-
 ' pectation. This can be no Prejudice, replied
 ' *Alexander*, in regard we have observed some
 ' Things, which assure us, that you ought to
 ' chuse the Conjugal State, whereby you would
 ' render the Person you would think worthy of
 ' your Enjoyments, the happiest Man in the
 ' World; nay, before I know any more of you,
 ' Madam, than I do at present, I wish my self
 ' the Person for whom that Felicity is reserved.
 ' His two Friends affirmed the same in their
 ' own Behalves, being extreamly pleased with
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pared to mine, answered she, who have three such handsome Persons at my Devotion, of whom it seems, it is in my Power to make one of them the happiest Man in the World ? Well, Gentlemen, since you cannot desire, I should determine my Choice presently in a Business of such Concern, give me leave to examine your several Perfections, that I may single out him who in my Judgement is the most deserving.

Upon this every one began to celebrate his own Worth, and undervalue his Competitors. They passed some Time in this agreeable Discourse without any Offence taken, though the Place they were in should have put them in Mind, that some other Conversation was more suitable ; but in this Age young People are arrived to that height of Profaneness, that they make little Difference between Churches and Play-Houses. The Lady having had the Diversion to hear what every one had to say in his own Behalf, she answered them thus all at once ; Gentlemen, I have now fully informed my self of the Qualities and Deserts of three excellent Persons, I am now to advise with my Pillow, and consider which to prefer ; though to speak freely, I have in a manner resolved upon my Choice already, for whom I find my self to have a stronger Inclination than to either of the other Two. The Person I mean hath many excellent Endowments ; but the particular Inducement for my Approbation of him is, that I know him to be a very great Wit ; all that I have to object against him is, that he doubts I am engaged to some other, whence

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‘ny excellent Endowments ; but the particular
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‘that I know him to be a very great Wit ; all
‘that I have to object against him is, that he
‘doubts I am engaged to some other, whence

‘ I infer he is jealous, and consequently stored
: with ill Nature.

Alexander immediately apprehended she intended him, reflected on what had past in their Discourse the first time he had seen her. People being now ready to go out of the Church, the three Lovers outveyed one another, to pump for some extravagant Compliment to take leave of the Lady. *Alexander*, purposely staying last, whispered her thus, ‘ ’Tis too great Tyranny, ‘ Madam, towards a Servant so passionately ‘ yours, not to vouchsafe him in so long a Time, ‘ a full View of your Person ; I beseech you be ‘ more kind to him hereafter, lest, if your Dis- ‘ dain continue, it may have some fatal Effects ‘ upon me. The Indisposition of an Aunt whom ‘ I must constantly attend, replied she, I hope ‘ you will think an allowable Excuse, and what ‘ I tell you is much more real, than the Ex- ‘ pressions you make to me of your Affection ; ‘ but I will endeavour your Satisfaction, and ‘ silence your Complaints, when possibly you ‘ least expect it.’ *Alexrnder* had not Time to return an Answer, and so he parted, leaving her deeply in Love, and extreemly desirous to discourse with him more at leisure.

Some few Days after, Fortune favoured her with an Opportunity according to her Wishes, in the same Balcony where he had conversed with her the first Time, as soon as she perceived *Alexander* she came down, and they discoursed a considerable Time together without any Interruption. The Effect which this Interview and long Conference had upon *Alexander* was, that his Love, which was only a little Spark, was now kindled into a Flame. *Isabella* had the like

Sentiments,

Sentiments, yet had such a Command of her Passion, as not to admit him to the last Kindness, which Persons of different Sexes are desirous of, though probably she might reflect, that to have complied at first Sight, would have argue such a Complaisance and Weakness of Nature, as no Violence of Affection could ever tolerably excuse.

Alexander being now satisfied, that *Isabella* was both a great Wit and a great Beauty, writ several Love-Letters to her, and to express his Passion more sensibly, he also sent her several Copies of Verses of his own Composing, which Quality among many others, the more endeared him to her. To some of his Missives she very modestly returned Answer in these Terms.

The LETTER.

SIR,

THE Commendations which transcend the Merit of the Person on whom they are bestowed, do rather affront than oblige, and disparage the Judgement of the Giver, since the Receiver thinking herself unworthy of the Honour, justly reckons the Encumbrance for a Satyr. I am not so little acquainted with my own Merits, but that I can distinguish between Flattery and Truth; nor have I so mean an Opinion of myself, but that I think some of your Praises justly due to me, yet I should be better pleased, if you would find out a Mean between Commendations and Contempt. I have no great Experience of your Humour, and therefore cannot expect I should give any great Credit to your Poetry, because it is generally Fictitious, nor yet to your Prose, because it proceeds from the same Au-
ther

thor, who probably has conversed much with Romances. Whether what you write is dictated from a sincere Affection, or is only a high-flying Compliment, Time will discover, and satisfy me whether I am to acknowledge your Addresses as Civilities, or resent them as Affronts.

The Ingenious *Isabella* found an expedient to convey this Letter to *Don Alexander*, her newly inflamed Gallant ; who resolving to set himself right in the Opinion of his Mistress, and to discover the fluency of his Stile in Matters of this Nature, ordered the Messenger to stay, and instantly returned this Answer.

The LETTER.

I Perceive, Madam, that to procure your own Satisfaction, you do not regard what Inconvenience may happen to me ; but since you doubt of my sincerity in Verse, I will henceforth express myself in Prose, and endeavour as much as may be to conceal the Sentiments of my Soul, and in some Measure comply with your Commands in my Letter. You would find it no great Difficulty to believe me, if you knew what I suffer for your Sake. Well, Madam, it may be the Time for your Eyes to be opened is not yet come, but when that happy Hour comes, you will find that of all the Hearts which have been subdued by the Charms of your Beauty, mine may haply be the meanest, but the most passionate of all your Captives ; and do again assure you of what you seem to be ignorant of, that while I live you shall be the sole Mistress and Directress of my Inclinations, and have Hopes that good Nature, Gratitude and Generosity, will rather oblige you to acknowledge, and reward the Love I bear you, than to resent the Injuries you charge me withal.

This

This Letter gave *Isabella* that Satisfaction about her new Gallant that she desired. Frequent Visits were continued to *Alexander's* Part, and the Epistolary Correspondence on both Sides; so that the Inclination they had for each other were by Degrees heightened into a mutual Flame of Love. His Mistress strictly charged him to be very secret in his Pretensions, which he promised inviolably to do. Nay, she was so scrupulous in that particular, that if at Church, or any other publick Place, her Lover did but cast an Eye upon her in the Company of a Friend, she was jealous that he acquainted him with his Passion; and as if she had heard all their Discourse, she failed not to send a Letter to him, if she had not an Opportunity to see him time enough, that he himself might receive her Reproaches. *Alexander* cleared himself the best he could, assuring her of the contrary; and inflamed with Love and Indignation, used all manner of Means to dispel that Diffidence which extreemly troubled him; but the same Love which is wont to reconcile the lesser Differences and Dissatisfactions that happen between Lovers, at length helped them out of the greatest and most difficult. It was *Alexander's* Design to marry this Lady, though her Fortune was very mean; but he delayed the Consumating of it till he had affected a Business he was then engaged to prosecute. His Uncle and himself had done the King very considerable Service in *Flanders* for many Years together, and he was then making his Application to his Majesty for some Command in compensation thereof; but the Obstructions and Delays he met with in that Affair contributed

more

more to his After-happiness than that Expedition could have done, as will appear anon.

Isabella had taken Order, that he should not be seen in the Street where she lived, and much less look up to her Window to be seen by her, and her Commands were punctually obeyed by *Alexander* ; so that it was never known that they had met together ; but she her self was the first that forgot the Obligation ; for during the *Carnival* in *Valencia*, which is celebrated with Masquerades, Balls, Titles, and Disguises, *Alexander* had in some of these met with his Mistress, yet without discovering more than common Kindness to her, though they had talked and danced together. One Evening after the Ball, there was appointed a Meeting of several Ladies at the House of a Friend of *Isabella's*, to which she with some others were invited ; *Alexander* was likewise to be there with some Companions of his, not to Dance, but only to Discourse. *Isabella* came to the Place early, before the Rest appeared ; and soon after entered a Woman very richly drest, attended by two Gentlemen-Waiters of her own Retinue, whom her Mother had ordered to wait on her to that Neighbour's House, who was very much her Friend. *Alexander* coming into the Room was very kindly received by this Lady, whom he endeavoured to entertain the most amorously he could devise, till the rest of the Company came. The Lady who came last arose from her Seat, to go look upon a Suit of Tapestry that was in the Room, wherein were represented lighted Flambeaus ; the Admiration she exprest at the sight of it caused *Alexander* to come and view it ; there was Pen, Ink, and Paper upon the Table ;

Table ; *Laodamia*, so was the Lady called, took the Pen and drew several Strokes upon the Paper. *Alexandar* took Occasion so highly to magnifie what she did, that his Mistress, who was already possessed with Jealousy to see him so near her, was ready to burst with Indignation in hearing that Discourse : He minding only his own Diversion in what he did, took no Notice of it ; nay, on the contrary, being acquainted with *Laodamia*, by Means of her Brother, whom he often visited, a Person of a very free Humour, he continued his frolicksome Carriage, and snatching the Pen out of her Hand, dashed a little Ink thereon, telling her, jestingly, that the Blackness of the Ink never appeared less than it did then ; she pretended to be displeased with that Freedom, gave him a small Blow on the Shoulder with her Hand to get off the Ink, but perceiving he laugh'd at the Revenge she had taken, she gave him another harder than the former. *Isabella*, who more minded their Actions, than what was said by the Mistress of the House, who was then talking with her, starts from her Seat like a Fury, not considering who, nor what she was, gave *Alexander* such a Blow over the Face that his Nose bled ; the surprized Lover was extreemly startled at it, and could hardly take his Handkerchief out of his Pocket to receive the Blood, telling his Mistress very calmly, ' Well, Madam, you see I have conceal'd the Secret committed to my Trust ; you have discovered it first, and transgressed the Law which your self made ; concluding his Discourse with a low Congy, and so left the Place, and returned Home.

Isabella

Ifabella had no sooner given the Blow but she was wonderfully afflicted, not so much out of Respect she had for the Mistress of the House who was her intimate Friend, who had occasioned her Jealousie. At length some other Company coming in, she retired with one of her Acquaintance into the next Room, where, being alone, she thus discoursed her.

‘ My dearest *Ifabella*, pray what’s the Meaning of your present Carriage; and how are you altered from the Person you were when I was first acquainted with you? I have hitherto admired your Modesty and Reservedness; and it is Matter of Astonishment to me how you should be guilty of such Rudeness in your Behaviour. The Action you have done assures me, without your speaking, what in many Words you would hardly have persuaded me to believe. I was Ignorant of this Affection of yours, because you ever kept it secret; and since I am acquainted with it by this Discovery, I am more obliged to your Jealousie than your Friendship. *Alexander* is a Person of Worth and Quality, I am very glad he is your Servant; you may henceforward publickly own him, for it is to no Purpose to dissemble.

Ifabella was at such a loss she knew not what Answer to make, but having a little recovered her self, ‘ I must acknowledge, my dearest Friend, said she, that since this expertion of my Jealousie, and Indignation, hath betrayed me, and made it apparent that *Alexander* is my humble Servant, my inconsiderate Passion, hath to my Shame, betrayed what I kept not only from your Knowledge, but from all others;

others : I must acknowledge, I say, that *Alexander* serves me with a violent Passion, which yet exceeds not the Affection I have for him : I never saw him so Indifferent as I did in his last Adventure ; his familiarity with *Laodamia* touched me to the Quick ; and that Fury which we commonly call Jealousie, forced me to that extravagant Discovery of my Love.

‘ Since what is past cannot be recalled, says her Friend, let us find out some Remedy to prevent any Inconvenience ; for it is not fit we should be deprived of *Alexander’s* good Company, nor he of the Diversion of this Meeting. Besides, we ought not give *Laodamia* any Time to reflect upon this Accident, or entertain any Apprehensions which would be disadvantageous to you. What is to be done in this Conjuncture, replied the disconsolate Lady ? The only Way I can think of, says her Acquaintance, is immediately to write to him. ’ She followed her Advice, and sent him these Lines.

The LETTER.

Jealousies when they are really the Effects of Love, though expressed with some Harshness, are rather to be accounted Favours than Affronts, by a Lover whose Soul has entertained a sincere Passion for his Mistress. The Injury I have done my self in wounding my Reservedness, is greater then the Violence you will do your self in passing by what has happened. It much concerns my Reputation, that you immediately return to the Meeting. But if you persist in your Resentment you will have farther Occasion, if the Loss of my Favour may give you any. A

A Messenger was immediately sent with this Letter to *Alexander*, who seemed much pleased with the Reading of it, and without any Reflection obeyed his Mistress, being satisfied that nothing more discovers a real Passion than Jealousy. He comes very gaily into the Room where the Ladies were, which *Laodamia* perceiving was not a little concerned, since she now did not doubt but he was in Love with *Isabella*, although she had such a favourable Opinion of him, that he could rather have wished he had made his Address to her.

Alexander finding himself in the Presence of *Isabella*, thought it not convenient to speak to any other, till he had first assured her of his Compliance with her Desires. Approaching her then, with an engaging Smile, he made her this Compliment ; ' I have considered this Room as much as if it were a Temple, and your Person no less, since it not only kept me, *Madam*, from profaning the one, and offering any Violence to the other ; but also from my revenging my self by that Kind of Duel, which the Law permits between Gallants and their Mistresses. *Isabella* replied, being so much as I am a Servant to *Madam Laodamia*, I have taken the Affront you have offered her upon my own Account, when you would have shewed her a Kindness, never thinking of any Law that permits a Man to revenge him self of a Lady by way of Duelling. *Laodamia* knowing that the indiscreet Action, which *Isabella* had been guilty of, proceeded merely from her Jealousie, would not be engaged in her Excuse ; so that she readily replied, ' There was never such Intimacy between us, *Madam*, as might oblige

oblige you to make my Part with so much Passion, upon an Occasion wherein I should not have wanted Assurance to revenge my self; but not knowing any Cause that I had to be jealous, not judging the Affront done to me so great as you perswaded me it was, I did not act with so much Precipitation as your self. *Isabella* not a little moved at the freedom of her Discourse, would have replied, but the Mistress of the House, to prevent any farther Difference, interrupted them, and obliged them to silence, because several other Ladies were coming into the Room.

Alexander was very well drest that Night, and discovered so pleasantly, that the Ladies were much pleased with his Conversation, and *Madam Laodamia* particularly. Her Thoughts were employed with the Fræction which had happened between her and *Isabella*, and she now resolved to use all the Arts to gain her Gallant from her; wherein we shall find she succeed at last. *Isabella* was exream free of her Favours to *Alexander*, and gave him extraordinary Demonstations of her Affection, having indeed a greater Kindness for him than any other Person, though at that very Time she loved an absent Gentleman, to whom she had granted more particular Kindnesses than ever she allowed to *Alexander*. This Gallant, whose Name was *Don Fernand Corella*, had made a Journey to *Madrid*, to prosecute a Suit at Law against the Count of *Concentana*, his Uncle, for a considerable Estate in Lands, which at last was determined in the Sovereign Court of *Aragon*. He was returned to *Valentia*, with a Decree to put him in Possession of the said Estate, which amounted to Two thousand

thousand Pounds a Year. *Isabella* was much perplexed, how to manage Matters so between her two Gallants, as to please them both; she considered, that her Honour was engaged to *Don Fernand*, and her Love to *Alexander*; her Affection being as much heightened toward the Latter, in requital of his assiduous Attendancies as it cooled toward the Former, by Reason of his Absence; so that it is no greater Miracle, to find a Woman forget her former Obligations to those that are out of Sight, and mind only their present Engagements, then to see a Goose go bare foot.

But as drowning Persons catch at any Thing, and the Distressed are usually glad of any Advice: this Lady, whom we represented before as one of the greatest Wits of her Nation, being reduced to this Extremity, must needs ask Counsel of a Servant, of whose Fidelity and Secrecy she had great Assurance, resolving, if possible, to find out one Expedient to secure one to herself, and not to lose the other. She received *Don Fernand* into the House in the Night, judging she could not civilly deny him the Repetition of a Kindness she had once granted him; and she kept the other in her Favour by Amorous Letters, and not allowing him to see her as often as he desired, as well to add Fire to the Fewel of his Love, as to give Opportunity to the other, whom she durst not disoblige, to have the freer Access. Her Excuse to *Alexander* was, That she had Overseers, and that her Relations were very jealous of her Honour, so that one of them watched her Day and Night, and therefore the greatest Kindness he could do her was, to forbear passing through the Street where

where she dwelt, till she could inform him the coast was clear. *Alexander*, who had a real Passion for her, and suspected nothing of Imposture, easily credited what she said, and punctually obeyed her.

Don Fernand was willing to requite the Kindness he received by marrying her; but having a Mother alive, who would not have been pleased with the Marriage, he took Occasion to put it off, hoping it would not be long ere she was removed out of the Way, as being very Ancient. So that he passed the Time very pleasantly with his Mistress, while she by her cunning Insinuations and Artifices, endeavoured to bring *Alexander* into a Fools Paradise, and induce him to believe, that all proceed from pure Love and Affection.

There happened about this Time a Difference between *Alexander* and another Gentleman, whose Name was *Don Garceran*, one of the eminent Persons about the City, as they were playing at Tennis; some Friends interposing between them, and a seeming Reconciliation was made, but such as satisfied neither of the Parties. *Alexander* was a Person of a generous free Temper, which he attained by his Employments and Conversation in *Flanders*, and imagined no Danger from any Man but in the Way of Honour. But his Adversary conceiving he had more Reason to be offended than the other, who had expressed so much Resentment, concealed his ill Humour, in Hope of an Opportunity to be revenged with Advantage.

Dan Fernand was gone into the Country, and staid there three or four Days; *Isabella*, who had a great Kindness for *Alexander*, sent him a Mes-

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sage to come to her House in the Night, but secretly and with such Caution, that none might perceive it; insomuch as the Freedom which she gave him, concerned her Reputation to the highest Degreee. The Amorous Cavalier obeyed her in this, as he had done in many other Things she had enjoyed him; coming thither at such Hours as it was not likely any should observe it. Thus by his Credulity he promoted the Designs of this subtil Woman, who endeavoured craftily to make the most of both her Gallants; so that preventing their being jealous of one another, by their not knowing that they were Rivals, she fooled them both. Had she then been at Liberty to make her own Choice, no doubt but she would have taken *Alexander* for her Husband; but *Fernand* being aforehand with her, she could do no less, though it were only out of fear of losing him, and to prevent the Reproaches he might make her, than keep him still in Play, and expect the Performance of the Promise he had made to Marry her, as soon as his Mother, was marched off: But being apprehensive that he might then break his Word with her, she thought it Prudence to give *Alexander* a little more Encouragement. Upon these Considerations she admitted both their Courtships; of which Practice we have many Examples in this Age, which have sometimes produced Ill-consequences, to the Disturbance of some considerable Families.

Alexander being more kindly entertained by his Mistress than formerly, began to hope he might in Time obtain that grand Favour which can be expected from a Woman; but he was mistaken in his Measures; for she much doubt-

ed,

ed, that if she should oblige him in what he so much desired, he might become absolute Master of those Inclinations, which he had so dextrously divided between them both. However, *Alexander* passed away his Time pleasantly enough, during the Absence of *Fernand*, but upon his return to *Valantia*, *Isabella* began to be more reserved, and would not so much as be seen by *Alexander*, making him such plausible Excuses, that he who had so great a Kindness for her, pretended to believe all she said; yet having some Suspicion, that there might be a secret Intrigue in the Business, he often disguised him self, that he might visit the Street where she lived in the Night, without being discovered; but he could never meet with any Person of whom he might conceive any Jealousie; yet that Concealment did him a Courtesie, for by that Means he escaped from being known by the Cavalier, who sought to be revenged on him. That he never happened to meet with *Fernand* in the Street where she lived, proceeded from the Precation of *Isabella*, who to prevent all Inconveniencies, had ordered the Matter so, that *Fernand* came to her House, through that of a She Friend of her's, which was in another Street, and had a Back-door leading into a Garden joyning to *Isabella*'s, in whose Embraces he spent the whole Night.

It happened one Night that *Alexander* being in the Street where his Mistress dwelt, his Adversary *Don Garceran*, attended by two of his Servants, comes into it by another Way; they not being well assured it was he, followed him at a Distance, being unwilling to do that Mischief to another which they only intended him.

Alexander

Alexander at last observed them, and being unfurnished of Pistols to deal with Persons who never went without them, having only his Sword to defend him self, he bethought him to make the Signal he was wont at *Isabella's* Door, who happened to come just then down Stairs, after she had put *Fernand* into her Bed. She looked out of the Window to know what her second Gallant would have, who, as soon as he perceived her, desired her to open the Door immediately, otherwise he was a dead Man, in Regard *Don Garceran* his Enemy followed him, and he was destitute of Weapons to defend him self. The Lady imagined *Alexander* had some Design upon her, and pretended this only to have Admittance the sooner; but *Alexander*, with many Oaths, affirmed he spoke nothing but the Truth, and that *Gerceran*, with two others were coming to assault him. *Isabella* was extremely concerned at this Accident, and pretended that a Gentlewoman of her Acquaintance was come to see and lodge with her all Night, and that she durst not open the Door lest he should be seen by her. *Alexander* pressed her the more earnestly to do it, aggravating the Danger he was in, and charging her with having little Love for him, when she refused him Entrance into her House in such an Extremity, which the greatest Stranger in the World would not have denied him, *Isabella* replied, that she could not do it without Prejudice to her Reputation; that he need not doubt of her Affection to him, since she assured him, she was in the greatest Perplexity in the World that she should not satisfy his Desires. *Alexander* added, that since her Friend was in a Room above

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Stairs, she might without any Scruple, open the Door, and let him stay below till he could retire with Safety.

Isabella finding him so importunate, imagined it proceeded from some Suspicion he had conceived of her, and that he had seen *Don Fernand* coming into the House. To be assured whether it was so or no, she looked into the Street, and saw the three Men which pursued him whispering one to another, as being in some uncertainty, whether he was the Person they looked for. These Circumstances fully satisfied her, that *Alexander* was in the utmost Danger; and to find some Expedient to give him Entrance, she desired him to stay a little, and she would see whether she could open the Door. She went up Stairs to *Fernand*, who wondering at her Stay, asked her, *What Occasion she had to go down*, Who readily answered, *That her Aunt was not yet fallen asleep, and that she could not come to Bed till she was, desiring him to have a little Patience.*

Having thus satisfied him, she went into another Room to consider with her self what might be done in this Exigency. On the one Hand, she saw *Fernand* possessed of her Bed, a Person of a fantastick Temper, yet one whom she was engaged to, and had made Master of that which she ought to have most valued, and still humoured, in hopes one Day to be his Wife; so that her Humour lay at Stake on that Part; on the other Part, the Love she had to *Alexander* had such an Influence upon her, that she was very unwilling he should be assassinated by his Enemies, which he was in the greatest Peril of, if she did not relieve him when it was in her

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Power to do it ; so that she was strangely distracted in her Thoughts, whether she should follow the Dictates of Honour or Love ; at length upon mature Deliberation, the consideration of Honour prevailed, and obliged her not to receive *Alexander* into the House, since her Reputation would be in danger two Ways : One, that it could not be done without *Fernand's* hearing of it, who would thence take Occasion to break his Promise : Another, that if *Alexander* were pursued by his Enemy, and that he should see him come into her House, he would be apt to make an ill Construction of it, and the Report thereof might come to the Knowledge of *Fernand* though he saw him not.

Having thus resolved to stick to the surer Side she went down Stairs, and finding *Alexander* still at the Door, ‘ My dearest Love, said she to him, I am willing, above all Things in the World to satisfy your Request, by giving you entrance, not only into my House, but into my Heart, which is absolutely at your disposal. I see you are pursued as you tell me, but it were too great an Inconvenience to me that you should be seen coming into my House at such an unseasonable Hour, being a Person, as I am, of so unblemished a Reputation : I beseech you, consider with yourself, what Discourses it might raise ; besides my Friend, who is my Bed-fellow this Night is awake, and as Women are exceeding inquisitive, she will be very earnest to know the Occasion of my stay, and who hath kept me so long from her, for there is much Familiarity between us. Pardon me therefore that I cannot comply with your Desire, it is the
‘ greater

greatest Affliction to me imaginable, that I must leave you in so much Danger ; but reflecting upon my Credit, I know you would not be willing I should hazard it, since I do not doubt but you are so generous as to prefer my Honour before your own Life.

This unworth Treatment from his Mistress in pressing an Extremity, went to the very Heart of *Alexander* ; nay, he was so surprized to find himself thus undeceived, that it would not have much troubled him if *Garceran* had set upon him, that he might be revenged of the Affront offered him by *Isabella*, in dying before her Eyes. I should never have imagined, said he, in parting from her, that you should have been so barbarous, as to deny me your Assistance in so great a Danger, or so inexorable to the Intreaties of a faithful Servant. It is manifest you never had any real Kindness for me, since the Reputation you pretend so much to prize, would have run no Hazard, neither from your Friend, nor my Enemy, by receiving me as an Husband, on which Account I made my Addresses to you ; and if you, the most ingrateful of Women, had entertained me as such, and not insisted on frivolous Respects, grounded on such Maxims as I cannot approve of, my Heart had at this Time been absolutely at your disposal, as being the sincere Design of all my Courtships and Services ; but Fortune would not permit it ; and therefore, since I could find no Compassion in your Soul, I will go and try what I may expect from my Adversary, with a Resolution never to forget a procedure, at which I am so much astonished. *Isabella* would have made him some Answer, being ex-

treably moved at his Discourse, and was resolved to have hazarded all to assure him of her Affection; but opening the Door to call him, he was got away down the Street pursued by *Garceran*, who being assured he was the Person he sought for, was going to set upon him. His Resentment of her Unkindness, considering the imminency of the Peril, seemed just to her, and being wonderfully concerned thereat, she blamed her self, and cursed her Fate. In the mean Time, *Alexander's* happy Stars secured him from Danger, and reserved him for more worthy Adventures. *Garceran* coming within Pistol-shot of *Alexander*, perceived that he had just then met with his Friend *Don Jaymo*, who with his Servant was going Home to his Lodgings, which prevented him from executing his Design: For *Garceran* being in all appearance, and before several Persons of Quality reconciled to him, he judged they would all blame him, for assaulting a Gentleman upon an old Quarrel, especially at Advantage, and with Fire-Arms; so that finding he had lost so fair an Opportunity to revenge him self, he stept aside to avoid being known, imagining he had not been discovered. *Alexander* related the whole Story to his Friend, and how he had been pursued thither, which he much wondered at, not thinking that *Garceran* would have so little minded his late Engagements, or that he should retain Malice so long upon such a slight Occasion.

By this Time it was very late, and for that Reason, as well as to be satisfied in what he was jealous of, *Alexander* being near *Don Jaymo's* Lodgings, resolved to lye there that Night, which his Friend was very glad of. Before

they went to Bed, they fell into Discourse about what had passed. *Alexander* opened his Heart to Don *Jamo*, and acquainted him how Matters stood between him and *Isabella*. Don *Jamo* had heard somewhat of the mutual Love there was between her and *Fernand*, and was disturbed to find his Friend had so displaced his Affections, and particularly at the Resolution he had made to marry her; whereupon, he could not forbear telling him what he knew: Which *Alexander* understanding, he presently imagined, that the Reason why she refused to open the Door, must needs be, that her former Gallant was with her. A Thousand Passages came into his Mind, but he particularly reflected upon the Prohibition which the Jilting Lady had made him, of speaking to, or waiting on her in the Night, and that it was only since *Fernand*'s return from *Madrid*; and communicating his Thoughts to his Friend, they both concluded that *Fernand* must needs be in the House with her; to be fully assured of it, they ordered one of Don *Jamo*'s Servants to endeavour to detect the Matter, and to that End, to continue in the Street till Day-light; and another Servant was appointed to stand Centry in the other Street, by which *Fernand* use to enter through a Back-door. With this Precaution they went to Bed, but *Alexander* was so concerned that he could not Sleep. About half an Hour before Day, one of the Servants brought Intelligence, that he had seen Don *Fernand* going out of the House belonging to *Isabella*'s Friend, and that about the same Time, he observed *Isabella* looking after him out of the Window. This Account satisfied *Alexander*, that all the Love he formerly

had for that impudent Woman turned to mortal Hatred. It was not to be imagined, that *Fernand* frequented that House for the Sake of the Mistress of it, who was turned of Fifty and past being courted by young Gallants, though she had the Reputation of being a very charitable Person in Love-Affairs, and very serviceable to young People in promoting their Pleasures.

The Night following *Alexander* had a Desire to see *Fernand* enter into the House of this ancient Sollicitress, and lying perdue upon the Roof of a House of a Friend of his, he at length perceived the favoured Gallant had Notice given him, that he might go from the Bawdy House to *Isabella's*. That very Night the dissimbling Creature sent her Servant Maid to *Alexander*, who was privy to all her Intrigues, with the following

LETTER.

Signior *Alexander*,

I Am of the Opinion your just Resentment against me would be somewhat qualified, if you were sensible of the great Vexation and Trouble I am in to have been the Occasion of it. That I have not been so compassionate as the Exigency required, be pleased to attribute to the Tenderness I had for my own Honour, the Consideration whereof made me inexorable. I love you beyond my own Life, but one of my Birth and Sex may be pardoned if she sacrifice all Things to the Security of her Reputation, rather than expose her Credit to the Censures of malicious Tongues. You may well imagine, when I denied you entrance into my House, that my good Name must have run a strange Hazard

more than that troublesome Bed-fellow, whom, to my Un-
 happiness, I was forced to entertain. Notwithstanding
 your parting with me in Anger, you could not but ob-
 serve the Distraction I was in; whence you may ima-
 gine, how often I have blest the Fates, by whose In-
 terference you were rescued out of that Danger which I
 thought unavoidable. You could not have lost your Life
 in that Adventure, but mine must have run the same
 Hazard. Let me therefore conjure you to lay by
 your Resentment and appease your Indignation; which
 if I may obtain of you, I shall think all that you can
 require of me little enough to requite it. Your compli-
 cence with my Desires herein, will inform me what Ten-
 derness you have for her Satisfaction, who prays for
 your Preservation as much as for her own, and who loves
 you with all her Soul.

Isabella.

Alexander was extremely incensed at the Re-
 ceipt of this Letter, and though he did all he
 could to dissemble it, yet the Maid looking
 earnestly on him while he was reading it, suffi-
 ciently observed his Disturbance. He intreated
 her to walk into the Garden, and stay for an
 Answer, which was this.

The LETTER.

YOur Satisfactions hitherto, Madam, have ever
 heightened my Love, but this last Missive has
 wrought in me a quite contrary Effect, for I know
 it to be as far from Truth as I am from Dissimulation.
 I never thought my self a Person to be entertained, only
 to pass away the tedious Interval of another Man's Ab-
 sence; nor to act the ridiculous Part you have put upon
 me, only to come upon the Stage, between the several
 Acts of your secret Prostitutions. If it be any Satis-
 faction,

faction to you, know that I am disingaged from all Resentments of your Hypocrisy, and shall never complain of the frivolous Elusions wherein you suffered my Love to languish ; nay, I am more obliged to you for your Denials, than ever I should have been by your Concesses. My Life indeed, would have been secured if you had received me into your House ; but my Honour would have been irrecoverably lost, if without any discovery of it you could have exercised your Charity towards two several Persons the same Night. It is very improbable that you should love me beyond your own Life, when being so closely engaged with another you thought me the fittest Person in the World to make your Diversion. I am really obliged to those who designed to be my Murderers, since by their Means I came to the discovery of your Impostures. Make sure of that fortunate Gallant, whom your charitable Care was ushering to your Bed, while I was knocking at your Door. Make sure of him, perfidious Woman ! and keep all your Blandishments and Dissimulation for him. Live as happily with him as the Conscience of your Inhumanity towards me will permit, and never think more of Alexander, who for his Part disclaims all future Thoughts of you.

Madam Isabella's Servant being dispatched to his Mistress with this Letter, she found her in the House of that Neighbour of her's, through which Fernand had access to her. She received it with some Disturbance, asked the Maid what Humour she found him in ; who told her, she had but a very cold Reception, and that he expressed nothing of the Kindness he used to do formerly. Isabella was a little disturbed at the Discourse. It seems then, says she, that I am not to promise my self any great Satisfaction from this Letter. Having opened and read it, she was so

so surprized that she was not able to speak. Her friend asked her what is contained; she not being in a Condition to answer, gave her the Letter to peruse. The old Procureress was no less alarmed than her young Mistress, finding that *Fernand's* Love was discovered, to the great disadvantage of her Reputation, since it was plainly enough expressed, that the Commerce they had was managed through her House. *Isabella* was so afflicted with the Contents of this Letter, that she cursed the Day and Hour she had suffered *Alexander* to court her; the only Comfort that remained to her was, that she knew him to be of such a generous Disposition, that though he had just Occasion to be incensed, yet he would conceal her Weakness, and not make the Correspondence which had been between them publick. This kind of Generosity might haply be a little practiced in the golden Age, but the People of these Times have so far forgot that Tradition, that they aggravate Truths which are deplorable enough in themselves, which affected Untruths and Calumnies, for which we are obliged to the detecting Humour of the Beaus of the Age.

But *Isabella's* Unhappiness was not yet arrived to the Height, and the Malice of her Ill-Fortune thought not this Affliction heavy enough. When the Wheel of this giddy Goddess Fortune begins to turn, every Spoke of it brings a new Misfortune, and one Disgrace comes upon the Neck of another. It happened, that as the Maid was coming out of *Alexander's* Lodgings to bring the Letter to her Mistress, *Fernand* saw her with it in her Hand, she having taken no Care to hide it, because she was dissatisfied

with *Alexander*, who only at this Time had omitted to make her a Present. *Fernand* immediately began to suspect somewhat, and followed her undiscovered into the House where *Isabella* was, the Maid having by a second Oversight left the Door open, so that he conveyed him self into one of the Upper-Rooms without being taken Notice of, where he easily observed all that passed; he heard the Letter read from one end to the others, and their several Discourses and Comments thereupon; the distressed Lady bursting out into Indignation at every Word, and not imagining she was overheard, sufficiently expressed her Resentment of so pressing an Adventure.

Fernand, who would have been glad of any Occasion to break the Promise he had made to Marry her (for a Lover, after he has been admitted to Enjoyment, has quite different Sentiments than when he was still kept in Hope) hearing all these Matters, conceived them a fair Pretence to disingage him self. He therefore goes confidently into the Room where they were, and addressing him self to *Isabella*, who was sufficiently startled at his Presence; 'I expect, said he, considering the mutual Obligations between us, that you would have been as sincere therein as my self, whose only Aim it was that we might be made one by Marriage, and to enjoy in a short Time those Pleasures lawfully, and without any Sting or Remorse, which in hopes of accomplishing that sacred Bond we have presumed to anticipate: But since, ungrateful Creature, I find you have abandoned all Modesty, and entertained new Gallants, I reckon my self free to
' dispose

dispose of my Love where I shall think it convenient, since it is neither Just nor Rational, that I should be inseparably joyned to a Person, destitute of all Conduct and Honour, and to live the Rest of my Days in perpetual Distrust and Jealousie. Having said this he left the Room, a little concerned at the Distraction wherein he left the Woman, but well satisfied in his own Thoughts that he made such a lucky Escape, the Prosecution whereof was so displeasing to his Mother.

It cannot be imagined that the Constancy of any Woman could bear up under such cutting Misfortunes. *Isabella* fell into a Swoon in the Arms of her She-Friend and continued therein a long Time; her Senses being returned, she spoke such Things as raised Compassion in all that heard her. She consulted how to find out some Remedy for her Miseries, but could think of none powerful enough to recal *Alexander*, who was now acquainted with her former Engagement; nor yet to bring back *Fernand*, whom she knew she had so much disobliged; she was not able to conceal her Sorrow, to be thus justly deserted by both. She imputed all her Unhappiness to her own Mis-government of herself: She tore her Hair, and uttered whatever Rage could inspire in a Woman exasperated to the highest Degree. She passed the Rest of that Day in the greatest Disquiet; neither her Friends Discourses, nor her own Thoughts affording her the least Consolation. In the Evening she returned to her own House, but the Distractions in her Soul accompanied her, so that it may be imagined, the Night proved as restless as the Day had been unfortunate to her.

Let us a while leave her in Bed to ruminat upon the Remembrance of her former Miscarriages, which has thrown her into the present Troubles and Vexations under which she labour'd, and give an Account what became of *Alexander*. As soon as he had dispatched the Maid with his Letter to *Isabella*, he began to consider seriously what Course he should take, for he saw nothing was to be expected there, and that it was not for his Reputation to continue his Visits any longer. He had always a great Inclination for the fair *Laodamia*, especially since she had occasioned *Isabella* to break forth into that extravagant Discovery of her Jealousy. He considered she was a Lady well descended, and had a great Fortune, and thereupon resolv'd to make his Addresses publickly to her, by demanding her Marriage of her Father and Brother; which they upon the first Motion very readily granted, with the greatest Demonstrations of Satisfaction, *Alexander* being a Person generally respected and beloved in his Country, having such gentle Qualifications as made him acceptable in all Companies. The Contract was soon drawn up, and the Report thereof immediately spread over the whole City of *Valentia*.

When this News came to the Ears of *Isabella*, you may easily imagine whether she was not extremely moved thereat; and especially, that he had set his Affections upon One, whom of all the World she thought she had most Reason to hate, ever since that fatal Meeting, when her Weakness caus'd her to shew so much Indiscretion. She said an hundred Things against her, and made many Imprecations against him and her self too, charging Fate with Injustice, and
sometimes

sometimes bemoaning her self, and cursing her Misfortune. But it was not one of her Gallants only that she thought she had Cause to curse, for the same Day she met with a greater Back-blow from Fortune. *Fernand* having had a plausible Occasion to make void the Engagement he had made her, treated about Marriage with an Handsome, Rich Young Lady, whom his Mother had long before recommended to him, and the Treaty of Marriage was soon concluded, which though done very privately, was soon become a Town-talk, and at length reached *Isabella's* Ear. She had hitherto retained some faint slender Hopes of retrieving the Love of *Fernand*, which made her conceive he would not break his Obligations to her, as having sufficiently endeared him thereto by the highest Demonstrations of Love and Tenderness. Thus she flattered her self till the very Day that she was clearly convinced of the contrary; saw the Match concluded, and her self utterly forsaken; reflecting on the other side, of what an unworthy Breach of Trust she was guilty toward him, to whom she had devoted her Honour: How could she imagine that he would not abdicate her? How could she expect if they had come together, that he could have been able to live with her, considering her violent Jealousie and Distrust? The very Day she heard of this Gentleman's being married, she fell into such Extravagancies, that she resolved to be revenged of her beautiful Face: She gave her self several Blows, tore her Hair, and did all Things that might discover her Madness and Despair. Her fair Eyes became Fountains of Tears perpetually running; and when her Sighs and Grief gave her

her a little freedom of Speech ; ‘ Wretched
 ‘ Woman that I am, would she say, of whom
 ‘ all good Fortune hath taken it’s last Leave ;
 ‘ how deservedly is thy Ingratitude requited
 ‘ with Neglect ? How justly art thou punished
 ‘ for having entrusted a base, treacherous, Per-
 ‘ son, with the disposal of what thou oughtest
 ‘ to have valued above the World ? Thou seest
 ‘ he denies the Debt ; thou seest he pays it with
 ‘ Inconstancy and Oblivion. Let all easy-natu-
 ‘ red and inconsiderate Women take Example
 ‘ by me ! Let those who deluded by Flatteries
 ‘ and feigned Caresses, are drawn in to part
 ‘ with that which they can never recover, cast
 ‘ their Eyes upon my Misery, and then consider,
 ‘ whether there be any on Earth whose Unhap-
 ‘ piness may be compared with mine. I wish
 ‘ for what all others are afraid of, Death ; but
 ‘ he is deaf and inexorable, nay slights me, and
 ‘ will not come and put a period to my Trou-
 ‘ bles. ’

After having thus bemoaned her self, where-
 by she found some Remission of her Grief, she
 went to visit her old Friend, through whose
 House *Fernand* come into hers ; who though she
 endeavoured by the most pressing Arguments to
 comfort her, yet her Affliction was so great, the
 Cause of it so penetrating, and so little hope
 of any Remedy, that all her Remonstrance a-
 vailed nothing ; the only expedient that offer-
 ed, was to forbid the Banes, since there was
 some Ground for it ; but alas ! What Proof
 could be made of so secret a Love, without any
 Promise of Marriage in Writing, or any Testi-
 mony but that of a Servant Maid, who having
 a Dependence on her Mistress, would not have
 been

been so easily credited? A fair Warning, Ladies, for those, who at the same Time admit the Addresses of several young Gentlemen, without reflecting on what their Honours may suffer, the loss whereof they are not sensible of, till by their Folly and want of Consideration, they are reduced to remediless Extremities. The last and surest Expedient this desolate Woman could pitch upon, was to become a Nun, a common Refuge for ancient Maids, and others who have forfeited their Reputation. She was received into the Royal Monastery of *Zaida*, three Days after the Marriage of *Fernand* was consummated.

This sudden Change occasioned much Discourse and Noise in *Valentia*; all admired at it, especially those who knew her to be the handsomest, and the most desirous to be courted of any Lady in *Valentia*. It was indeed wonderful to see, that a young Lady, who formerly was so passionately in Love with Balls, Plays, and other publick Meetings, should exchange all these diverting Enjoyments of Life, for the imaginary Felicity of Mortification and Retiredness. Here she continued the rest of her Days, and for the Innocency of her Carriage, and her charitable Counsels to such as had Occasion to address themselves to her, she was reputed a Saint even while she lived.

Fernand had a Wife, but his Wantonness seemed to be punished by her Barrenness, for she bare him no Children, and instead of the great Fortune which he expected with her, he had his Hands and Heart too, full of Law-Suits, Troubles and Differences with several People, and not a few Discontents with his Wife. He
wished

wished, but too late, that he had rather entered into a Monastery than into a State of Matrimony, the Inconveniencies whereof sufficiently convinced him, that *Isabella* had made the better Choice. He visited her often, and was obliged to her for her prudent and pious Admonitions.

On the contrary, *Alexander* was the happiest Man in the World in his Disposal of him self; his *Laodamia* brought him many fine Children, and by the Death of some Relations, a far greater Fortune than he could have expected. They also visited their old Acquaintance *Isabella*, in the Nunnery, who received them kindly, and gave them Occasion to reverence her Piety, and admire her Conduct.



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NOVEL III.

DON Pedro Osorio, a Gentleman of very high Quality, was born at *Ville Franche de Viercho*, an ancient City upon the Confines of *Galicia* in *Spain*. He was descended from a Noble Family, and educated in his own Country, with his elder Brother *Don Fernand Osorio*, and a Sister called *Constantia*. But his Father and Mother leaving this World before he was full Fifteen Years of Age, he was obliged to enter into that Course of Life which is commonly taken by younger Brothers of Noble Houses, who have not so much to depend upon ; so with the little Money he could get together he went to make his Campaign in *Flanders*. He behaved him self there with so much Gallantry as procured

cured him the Colours of a Company of Foot, and after several successful Encounters with the *Hollanders*, he was advanced to the Command of the same Company. In that Charge he afterwards shewed greater Demonstrations of his Courage and Conduct, insomuch, that his most Serene Highness the Arch-Duke *Albert*, prevailed with his Catholick Majesty, to dignify him with the Order of a Knight of *Alcantara*, and an Assurance of the first Commandery of that Order which should be vacant.

Having obtained this, he still continued his Military Employments, till such Time as there was a Cessation of Arms made between the King and his Enemies in the *Low-Countries*, to continue for a Year and a Day. This Opportunity, together with the News he received out of *Spain* of his Elder Brother's Death, obliged him to desire leave to make a Journey into his own Country, where two Children his Brother had left, and his own Sister stood in need of his Presence; the Former to be protected by him, the Latter to be disposed in Marriage. Don *Pedro* arrived at *Ville-Franche*, fifteen Days after his Sister's departure thence for *Valledolid*, with an Aunt of his, a Widow, his Father's Sister, who would needs have her along with her thither, where the Court was then kept. This old Lady had a great Kindness for her, having resolved to leave her all she had at her Death, in hopes she might, with those Advantages meet with the better Match.

As soon as Don *Pedro*, arrived in his Country, he took Order about his Brother's Estate and the Tuition of his Nephews, whom he left in

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the Custody of an ancient Kinsman of his, entrusting him with the Care of their Education and Maintenance. He then resolved to go and visit his Sister at *Valledolid*. As he was providing for his Journey, passing through the broad Place of *Ville-Franche*, he saw great Numbers of People going towards an Inn which was at the End of it, following two Litters, in one whereof there was an old Gentleman, in the other a young Lady, whose admirable Beauty, heightened by the Riches of her Attire, ravished the Eyes and Hearts of all that saw her, but above all those of Don *Pedro*. He was so inflamed by that transient View of her, that covering the Order he was of with his Cloak he followed the Litter, so transported out of himself, that he did not reflect on what those that saw him might judge of his Deméanour. He saw her alight at the Inn-gate, and if he was before raised into a kind of Astonishment at the Beauty of her Face, he was no less surprized with her fine Shape, the Magnificence of her Apparel, and the Sweetness of her Features. In short, he was reduced to such Extremity by the sudden Passion he had for her, that he made it his principal Business to discover who that Miracle of Perfection was who had made such an Impression upon his Heart, and had ravished his Liberty from him.

He was soon satisfied as to that Particular, for meeting with one of her Servants, going from the Inn to the Market-place, he with much Civility asked him who that old Gentleman was, and whether he was then travelling? The Servant who was very complaisant, returned him this Answer; Sir, the Gentleman whose Name
you

• you are so desirous to know, and who is my
 • Master is called the Marquis *Rodoifo*, a Person
 • of the highest Dignity next the Sovereign
 • Princes, who comes into *Spain* as ordinary
 • Ambassador, from the Emperor of *Germany* to
 • his most Catholick Majesty the King of *Spain*.
 • He brings along with him his beautiful Daughter
 • ter the Lady *Margaret*, to be married to *Leopoldus*,
 • his Excellency's Nephew, who is at
 • present at *Valledolid*, a very accomplished Gentleman,
 • who in the Prime of his Youth left
 • his Native Soil to see Foreign Countries, attended
 • only by four Servants: He has travelled over all
 • *France*, *England*, and *Italy*, and is now resolved
 • to reside in *Spain*, having continued some Time
 • at the Court with a very great Train. He hath an
 • House magnificently furnished, and is very highly
 • in Favour with his Catholick Majesty, and well
 • respected by all the Nobility about the Court;
 • nay, his Generosity and agreeable Conversation,
 • have acquired him the Esteem of all the principal
 • Persons in this Kingdom. This Marriage of
 • Signior *Leopoldus* had been treated of in Germany
 • with this Lady *Margaret*, the only Daughter
 • of my Master, who leaving his Country, upon
 • his being honoured by the Emperor with the
 • present Embassy, hath solicited the Business
 • with much Earnestness; so that his Imperial
 • Majesty seems desirous that the Match
 • should go forward. We came by Sea, but
 • had such bad Weather that we were often
 • in Danger to be cast away. While we were
 • in those Dangers, my Master, a Gentleman
 • much inclined to Religion, made a Vow that
 • if he escaped through the Intercession

• sion

sion of *St. James*, the glorious Patron of *Spain*, for whom he hath a particular Devotion, he would visit the Place where his Sacred Body was buried, so well known all over the World for the great Miracles daily done there. Being come to *Valleolid*, my Master continued there fifteen Days, during which Time all Things were agreed on in Order to the Marriage. That great Affair being concluded, he was resolved to perform his Vow, and to go *Compostella*. His Nephew *Leopoldus* is not come along with him, but stays at *Valledolid*, to send for a Dispensation, the Lady *Margaret* and Signior *Leopoldus*, being Cousin Germans. Thus, Sir, I have satisfied your Desire as to the Question you demanded of me.

Don Pedro gave the Servant many Thanks for the Account he had given him of his Master, and assured him he would requite his Kindness with the first Opportunity, and so they parted. This Discourse happened after Night, as they walked over the Market-place, it being so dark, that the Marquess's Servant could not take any particular Notice of *Don Pedro*, who did all he could to avoid being discovered. The Account he had received, that the Beauty which had ravished his Heart at the first Sight was already engaged, and within a short Time to be married, occasioned him to return to his House more melancholy than when he left it; this Affliction, considering the Love he had for her, deprived him of his Rest. That every Night he had Opportunity to see the Marquess and his Daughter at Supper, the Master of the House placing him so, that he might view all that passed without being observed him self; but this was only to
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add Fewel to the Flame of his Desires. The next Day the Marqueſs went from thence, ſo that Don *Pedro* had not the Happineſs to ſee the Lady any more at that Time ; nor upon mature Conſideration was he much diſturbed at it : For having in the Night ſeriously ruminated upon the Matter, to find out ſome Remedy for his Diſquiet, he found it neceſſary, that he ſhould not be ſeen, either by the Marqueſs or his Daughter, or on any of their Attendants, that he might the better compaſs a Deſign, which Love only could inſpire him withal.

The Kingdom of *Galicia* is very full of Mountains, and conſequently, the Way to St. *Jamies* muſt be troubleſome to a Travel, ſo that the Marqueſs could make but ſhort Journeys, whence Don *Pedro* concluded, they could not be back in leſs than twenty Days, preſuming he would continue ſome Time, to perform his Devotion at *Compoſtella*. Accordingly he diſpoſed of his Affairs, in Order to compaſs what he had projected in his Thoughts, and taking leave of all his Acquaintance, he went to *Pont Ferrada*, a Town which lay four Leagues farther from the Court than *Ville-Franche*. He took his Quarters in an Inn, from whence he did not ſtir in the Day, but only walked out in the Night to take the Air, yet with ſuch Caution as not to be known ; neither did he diſcover himſelf to any of the Inhabitants but to his Landlord, whom he acquainted with his Quality, and the Occaſion that had brought him thither. He was attended only by one Servant, whoſe Fidelity and Courage he had many Years experienced for he had ſerved him as a Soldier, and waited on him, from the Time of his firſt Departure

from

from *Ville-Franche*. *Felician*, so was his faithful servant named, perceived his Master more melancholy than usual, and that some Disturbance kept him away in the Night, and caused him to fetch many deep Sighs; but this discreet Lover not discovering any thing of his secret Passion, *Felician* could not guess at the Cause which bred such a Distraction in his Mind, though he used his utmost Industry to perpetrate hereinto. One Day finding his Master alone, and not able to endure his Reservedness any longer, he said thus to him.

I could never have imagined, Sir, that you would have been so reserved toward a Servant, whom you ever found just, and who regards you more than his own Life. You have formerly thought me worthy of Knowledge of your most important Secrets. Pardon me, if I presume to tell you, that your present Silence gives me too much Cause to conceive that you have not the same Thoughts of me, and must believe me guilty of some Crime of which I have not the least Apprehension: You must certainly have entertained some ill Opinion of me, since you conceal from me the Disquiets which deprive you of all Appetite to Meat or Rest. Surely these must be the Effects of Love, or else I am much mistaken. You close not your Eyes all Night, and spend the Day in Retirement; avoiding all Society, and giving your self up to perpetual Solitude and Melancholy, to my great Trouble and Vexation. You left your Country, telling your Friends you were going to Court, whereas you continue in an absolute Place, where you are afraid to be known. It is impossible

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* for me to forbear grieving at your Carriage
 * as long as I am ignorant of the Cause of it
 * Pardon my Curiosity, Sir, and though I may
 * seem impertinate, yet account it an Argument
 * of my Truth and Readiness to serve you.
 * know it is the Duty of an obedient Servant
 * to perform the Commands of his Master, without
 * out insinuating him self farther into his Privacies
 * than he is willing to impart them to
 * him. I have hitherto lived within these
 * Limits of Respect, and have so behaved my
 * self that I do not fear any Reproach from you.
 * But now at length, my ancient Fidelity gives
 * me the Boldness to ask what Business hath
 * brought you to this Place ; what occasions
 * your Disquiet, and how long you intend to
 * continue in this obscure Inn, where you deprive
 * your self of all manner of Diversion.
 * Have you a greater Confidence in the Master
 * of this House, whom you have been acquainted
 * with only three or four Days, than in an
 * old Servant, of whose Zeal and Honesty you
 * have had such Experience ? Formerly you have
 * thought my Advice worth asking, nay, have
 * followed it in Things, for ought I know, of
 * as great Importance as this is.

Felician having ended his Complaint, his Master thought him self obliged to make him an
 Answer. '*Felician*, said he, I must confess
 * have reckoned thee, as in Justice I ought, my
 * Friend, a Title I may well allow one who
 * hath shared with me the Dangers of War, and
 * the Enjoyments of Peace, wherein I have been
 * engaged. It is very difficult, if not impossible
 * that any Man should dispose of him self
 * or his Affairs contrary to the Intendment of

his Snars; notwithstanding, Astrologers pretend that a wise Man hath Dominion over them, and that Humane Prudence can elude the Decrees of Fate: I am born to love a Beauty, which hath surprized my Heart, and possed all the Faculties of my Soul; so that I find my self no longer Master of my own Liberty, and have not the least disposal of my Will; it were then a Madness for me to oppose the Inclination whereto the Fates have made me subject. I suffer my self to be foolishly carried away with my Passion, though I am fully satisfied that I attempt a Matter absolutely impossible and out of my Power. This, this is the Cause of my Disquiet, Sighing, and Melancholy, wearing out the Nights without Rest, and the Days with Solitude; suffering a thousand Afflictions which I cannot express, and loving where I have not the least hope of any return of Love, by Reason of an invincible Obstacle that lyes in the Way; this, is that which sowers all my Enjoyments, and poysons all my Joy. I have seen that admirable Beauty, that Prodigy of Perfection, who passed through our Town with her Father the Marquess *Rodolfo*; the excellent Endowments she is Mistress of, and which thou must have admired as well as my self is all the Excuse I can alledge for the blindness of my Passion, but they feed it not with any Hope. There is a grand Obstruſtion lies between me and the Possession of her, which I shall find it impossible to remove. This adorable Beauty is already made sure to a worthy Gentleman, who is her Cousin German, named *Leopoldus*, and methinks I see her ready

' to joyn Hands with him. I hear such high
 ' Commendations of his excellent Accomplish-
 ' ments, that I find the weak Hopes I had, rea-
 ' dy to vanish. I love her, or to say better, I
 ' adore her ; and if I may judge by the present
 ' Agitations of my Heart, I may say it will ne-
 ' ver be disingaged from the Passion I have for
 ' her : I know it is madness in me to think of
 ' her, and that I cannot without Extravagance,
 ' have the least Cause to imagine she should be
 ' mine to the disappointment of a young Noble-
 ' man who hath all the Advantages of Blood
 ' and Nature. Nay, I think it altogether im-
 ' practicable for me to acquaint her with my
 ' Love, and to get a Letter conveyed to her.
 ' I know, that the House of *Otorio, Toledo, Astorga,*
 ' and *Ville-Franche*, whence I derive my Pedi-
 ' gree, are not inferiour to those of *Rodolpho*
 ' and *Leopoldus*, and consequently, that I am as
 ' nobly descended as her self : So that this
 ' would not be the greatest Hindrance, if I
 ' could but make my self known at Court. I
 ' hear she intends to go thither when she re-
 ' turns from her Pilgrimage. I have but three
 ' Months to manage this Affair, so much Time
 ' being requisite to procure the Dispensation
 ' from *Rome*. I have anxiously considered with
 ' my self, of the Means whereby I might gain
 ' Access to her, and at length have concluded
 ' to counterfeit what indeed is but too Real, a
 ' certain Distraction of Mind. By acting
 ' the Part of a Lunatick, I may so disguise my
 ' Extravagancies, that haply her Father, pleased
 ' with my Humour, may carry me along with
 ' him to the Court. This to be sure is a Design
 ' fantastick enough, and not only below my
 ' Quality,

Quality, but absolutely opposite to the Opinion I should endeavour to gain in the World ; but I am almost confident, that I shall be known to very few at Court, because I have been so long absent from *Spain* ; besides these Considerations, the Habit I shall put on being altogether ridiculous, I shall be so disguised that my nearest Friends and Relations will hardly discover me. If by this Means I can get into the Marquess's House, I shall have hopes that the Plot will take. For I have heard, that this Lady is not fully satisfied with the Match, having an Account, that her Cousin is a Person of a debauched Life, and inclined to Women, and that she admits his Addresses only in Obedience to her Father. I have communicated my Design to the Master of the House, he being a discreet Person, who may serve me, and give me hopes to enter into the Service of the Marquess, when he comes to give him an Account of my pleasant Extravagancies, as we have already agreed together. Thus, my dear *Felician*, have I given thee a faithful Character of my self ; thou knowest now as much as I do of my Affliction, and of my Love ; mistrust not that I have any Suspicion of thee, but assist me with all thy Wit and Industry, or expect ere long to be a Witness of my departure out of the World.

Felician, in complaisance to his Master, seemed to approve of the Project, though he much doubted the Success thereof. He saw his Master was too far transported to be capable of any prudent Advice, so that he promised to assist him in the Design he had laid to gain access to his Mistress, and troubled his Mind no farther than

to promote the same. It was his Business therefore to provide a Suit of Cloaths for Don *Pedro* proper to act his Extravagance in. He put him on a Cassock after the old Fashion, with Puffs at the Sleeves of green Cloth, and large Skirts; a Cloak somewhat like a Rocket, very short, and a *Milon* Cap of green Plush. Being thus disguised he changed his Lodgings, and went to the House of his Landlord's Brother, who also must of Necessity be acquainted with the Secret. All this could not be done without some yellow Metal, whereof he had brought good store from *Flanders*, with several Jewels of value which he had gained by Gaming, at which he was very fortunate.

About this Time the Marquess, with the beautiful Lady his Daughter, where upon their return from their Pilgrimage; before they got to *Pont-Ferrada* the Beams of their Litter broke, so that they were forced to come to Town on Horseback, and to stay there two Days till the Litter was mended. The Marquess took up the same Inn where Don *Pedro* lodged, being the best in the Town. The Landlord being instructed what he should say to the Marquess for promoting Don *Pedro's* Design, soon met with an Opportunity to do it; for as most Persons of Quality when they Travel, are very inquisitive to know what is rare or remarkable at the Places through which they pass, the Marquess desirous to hear what there might be at *Pont Ferrada* who having travelled several times before into *Spain*, spoke the Language very well, was a very sociable Person, and glad of Company, called for his Landlord. Being come into the Room, he began to enquire of him whether there were any

any Antiquities in that Town, of the illustrious Families that had dwelt in it, the Dispositions of the Inhabitants, the handsome Ladies, and other Particulars; of which the Landlord gave him as exact an Account as he could, and among other remarkable Things came to speak of Don *Pedro*, relating such Stories of him as he expected would raise a Desire in the Marquess to see him.

‘ My Lord, said he, within these fifteen Days a very rare Person came to this Town, fantastically clad, but there is a greater Extravagance in his Humour than in his Cloaths, and yet in the Height of his Distraction, there may be observed certain Appearances of Ingenuity in him, which render him excellent Company. Being asked by some of our Inhabitants who he was? I am, said he, Son to the River *Sil*, which runs by the Walls of this Town, and descended from one of the most Illustrious Families of *Galicia*. He expects to be treated with the Title of your Honour and your Lordship in Discourse, though he is generally known by the Name of *Knight of the Noble Order of the Marigold*. The Fopperies he relates, to make good the Title he assumes, are so ridiculous that they force Laughter from the most Melancholy. He seldom comes out of his Lodging and feeds high, though we cannot imagine whence he should have Means to live at this Rate: He has a Servant to wait on him, who complies with him in his Madness, either from his own Advantage, or because he hath a touch of his Master’s Malady. And I think them both well worth your Honour’s Notice, I wonder the Knight

‘ bath not yet been to wait on your Excellency,
 ‘ for he is mighty desirous to converse with Stran-
 ‘ gers, and visit them as soon as he hears of their
 ‘ Arrival.’

The Marquess was much pleased with the Landlord’s Relation, and desired to be acquainted with this noble Knight; the fair Lady *Margaret*, who had heard all, expressed a great Desire to see him also. He was glad his Design had taken so well, and immediately went to his Brother’s and brought *Don Pedro* along with him; having before acquainted the Lord Ambassador that he must treat him honourably if he expected any Diversion from him, because he was extremely well conceited of him self in his Frenzy, and would soon be out of Humour if he were entertained with any Disrespect or Indifference.

The Marquess, who was naturally of a facetious Temper, promised he would observe his Directions; whereupon the Landlord goes to introduce *Don Pedro*, who entered the Room very oddly in his Fool’s Coat, making wry Mouths, and using some fantastick Gestures, as an Introduction to his Extravagance. The Ambassador, how composed soever he endeavoured to be, as being by his Character obliged to dissemble, could not forbear laughing to see him in that Equipage, attended by *Felician*, who on the other Side acted the Part to which he was appointed very rediculously. He went to the Door of his Apartment to receive him with this Compliment; ‘ Welcome the noblest Piece
 ‘ of Gallantry that ever *Spain* saw: Welcome
 ‘ the Mirour of all the brave Knights that were
 ‘ ever celebrated for their Heroick Actions. It

is no News that you tell me, replies *Don Pedro*, nor does it deserve the Reward usually given for good Tydings, since your Excellency is extremely mistaken, if you think you were the first of those that have admired Nature's Prodigality, in bestowing on me such admirable Parts and Endowments. Grant me the Favour at least, says the Marquess, to be one of the most happy Witnesses thereof, which no doubt I shall, if you please to honour me a while with your pleasant Company. For as a rich Diamond is valued by every one, so the Attractions of your Converse, and transcendant Charms of your Behaviour, compel all that are acquainted therewith to admire you.

Don Pedro was got by this Time near the fair Lady, whereupon looking with Astonishment at her surprizing Beauty, ' My Lord Marquess, said he, I beseech you forbear at present the Encomiums you are pleased to bestow upon me, which are only due to this excellent Creature, Pray, my Lord, inform me if she be your Daughter; if so, you will be much concerned at the Elogies I shall make of this Miracle of Beauty: Her coming into the World was to embellish our Hemisphere, to supply *Cupid* with fresh Darts, to become the Loadstone of Hearts, the Delight of the Eyes, and the Miracle of Nature. By the noble Order of Knighthood I am of, I vow, that the first Minute I blest my Eyes with the Sight of this accomplished Lady, I found my Heart rebellious, and not within my own Power; my Will was bereaved of all Freedom, and my Soul became absolutely her Slave. In a Word, Sir, I think my

self quite altered from what I was before, and am amazed at this strange Metamorphosis that I find in my self.

The Commendations you are pleased to give, most renowned Knight, replies the Lady, seem so full of Flattery, that I am confident you do not believe one half of what you have said, and therefore it will be difficult for me to do it. You do not consider, that you act against your own Sentiments, when you utter Things so contrary to your Reason. I should never advise a Gallant who would gain the Opinion of the Ladies, to hazard his being disappointed by so fulsome a Prologue; for to give undeserved and extravagant Commendations, causes a Woman to suspect she is guilty of Imperfections, and the Flatteries that is in them brings the Truth into question. The Truth of what I have said, dear Madam, replies the amorous Extravagant, is so plain, so clear, and so far from any suspicion of being otherwise, that your Looking-glass will convince you, I have advanced nothing but what is manifest to all the World. Be not so earnest, honourable Knight, says the Lady, be pleased to take a Chair, for we desire to Discourse with you at Leisure. Were I so happy, Madam, says Don Pedro, as soon as he was sat, that I might ever continue near you, I should think my self the most fortunate Person living, but I much doubt the Honour you are pleased to do me will be very short, and my Joy will soon be over; for I understand that within two Days you intend to depart from this Place, and if you leave me behind

you,

you, my extream Grief will make an end of me ; in the mean Time give me leave to look upon this Place as Sacred, since so incomparable a Personage hath honoured it with her Presence.

‘ We infringe the Rules of Civility, says the Marquess, when we fall into other Discourse before you have first entertained us with your own noble Adventures, that we may thereby be informed what Respect we ought to shew to your Honour. There is not any due to me, replies the disguised Cavalier, but the Service I owe your Excellency may be the better accepted, I will give you an Account of my Extraction, and relate the full History of my Life, from my Birth to this Time. Be pleased therefore to afford Attention to what I say.

‘ The Kingdom of *Galicia* was formerly governed by Courts, and afterwards by Kings; *Gondemar* reigned at that Time, and continued a Widower after the Death of his first Wife, by whom he had no Children, but the Infant *Theodora*, who coming to Reign after him was called the *Lewd Queen*. She fell in Love with the Gallant *Ricaredo*, one of the richest and properest Persons in the Kingdom. He ever resided about the Court, and was a Kinsman though at some Distance, to the King and his principal Favourite, by which Means he had Access to the Queen’s Apartment, and obtained of her that Favour whereby Mankind is propagated. I proved to be the Issue of this Amorous Commerce, and the good Hour of my Birth happened at a Time when the King chanced to be at his Daughter’s Lodging. The Pains of Child-birth surprized her, and being

utterly

' utterly unacquainted with Matters of this Na-
 ' ture, she could not dissemble her Labour, even
 ' in the Presence of her Father, who imagined
 ' it was some other sudden Accident that had
 ' happened to her : Her Women helped her to
 ' Bed, not suspecting the Distemper that af-
 ' fected her ; but not long after I came into the
 ' World, it seems to run through all the Misfor-
 ' tunes that have happened to me since. Being
 ' delivered into the Care of a faithful Servant,
 ' who knew of my Mother's Love, she carried
 ' me in her Apron to a Brother's of her's, who
 ' was also informed of the Business. As she went
 ' out of the Infanta's Lodgings, she met with
 ' the King as he was going to visit his Daughter.
 ' She much doubted his Curiosity would have
 ' examined what there was in her Lap, which
 ' made her turn back on a sudden, and go down
 ' into the Garden by a private Pair of Stairs,
 ' where having disposed me in a little Wicker
 ' Basket, and put me into the River *Sil*, which
 ' ran by the Wall thereof, and told the Infanta
 ' that she had delivered me to her Brother as
 ' they had resolved. I was carried a while on
 ' the Chrystial Waves of this clear River ; but
 ' at last, the Water growing rough, I sunk, and
 ' was received into the Arms of the Deity of
 ' that River, who encompassed by his fair
 ' Nymphs, conducted me into his own Chry-
 ' stal Palace ; you may possibly imagine this
 ' Discourse to be a feigned Story, like the In-
 ' ventions of the Poets, but I can assure you
 ' this Affair happened as I have related.

' I was brought up by the Nymphs in that se-
 ' cret Mansion, and instructed by the Deity of
 ' the River, who wished I might prove worthy.

of so noble an Education. He caus'd me to learn all manner of Sciences, and spared no Pains to make me an accomplished Person. I learnt three or four Languages, but particularly the *Latin* above any of the other. Being arrived to the twentieth Year of my Age, Love, to shew his Omnipotency, and that no Place is free from his Jurisdiction, causeth his Flames to invade me, even through the Water. In that Virginal Company of Nymphs, there was one for whom the Sovereign of that watry Habitation had a particular Esteem, and she deserved it, for she very much excelled all her Companions. Her Accomplishments were very extraordinary, and her Beauty was not to be parrelled. In Features and Stature she much resembled this fair Lady your Daughter, and had as great an Advantage over the rest of the Nymphs, as the Sun hath over the other Planets. She played charmingly on all Kinds of Instruments; in fine, she was the Prodigy of all Perfections. I fell so passionately in Love with this Beauty, that I had not a Minute's Rest, from that Time that little Deity had wounded my Heart with the irresistible Darts of her sparkling Eyes; I found it difficult to acquaint her with my Passion, because I could never meet with her alone. She was continually haunted by some of those who lived in that Chrystial Palace, they always followed her, and would never be out of her Sight. It happened one Day, when all the other Nymphs were gone to a Musick-Meeting, at which were also to be read certain Lectures of Poesie, being the ordinary Divertisements of the Sovereign of that River;

' River ; the amorous *Anacarsia* purposely pre-
 ' tended some Indisposition, to give me an Op-
 ' portunity to speak with her ; I had Notice of
 ' it by one who came to tell me, from her, that
 ' she kept her Bed only for my sake, than which
 ' I could not have expected a kinder Compli-
 ' ment from one of her Sex. I went to her
 ' Apartment, and found her carelessly reposed
 ' on a Bed of Moss, exceeding in Whiteness
 ' the fine Sheets she lay on ; I was surprized in
 ' viewing so many Charms, and was even ra-
 ' vished with Astonishment, as usually Persons
 ' in Love are ; but at length recovering my self,
 ' I took the Confidence to make the following
 ' Address to her.

' Adorable Nymph, the Glory of these Habi-
 ' tations, but the unavoidable Rock whereon
 ' all Hearts that are captivated by your Beauty
 ' are lost. Since the first Time I saw you, my
 ' Soul has been absolutely disposed to serve you,
 ' is wholly yours, and glories in it's Slavery ;
 ' I treat my Heart, dear Lady, as a Thing that
 ' properly belongs to you, and that is devoted
 ' to your Service with an unchangeable Fide-
 ' lity. You have blest me with an extraordi-
 ' nary Favour in allowing me to declare the
 ' violent Affection toward you ; and if I should
 ' be admitted to that Degree of Fidelity, that
 ' you would allay my Flame, I should be the
 ' happiest and most glorious of all Men.

' The fair *Anacarsia*, extreemly pleased with
 ' so obliging a Discourse, and the Worth she
 ' observed in me, highly honoured me with her
 ' Love, and complied with my Amorous Desires
 ' in such sweet and passionate Expressions, as
 ' put me in hopes of the happy accomplishment

of

of my Wishes ; but it was not long e're our Discourse was interrupted by the Sovereign of the River, who finding neither of us at the Meeting came straight to the Place where we were in, with such Privicy, that he heard some Part of our Love-Discourses, which so enraged him that he resolved to punish my Presumption. He laid Siege with his clear Waters to the Chamber of *Anacarsia*, and e're he had quite jammed up the Door, he cast me out with such Violence, that I was got to the Bank of the River ; I presently heard a Voice saying unto me ; *Guadomarus, thou art descended from Kings, though it be a long Time since they had Septers in their Hands. Princes of another Family have displaced them. Thou art born a Pagan, choose what Law thou thinkest best ; if thou wilt follow my Advice thou wilt take that which is observed in this Kingdom, under which thy Illustrious Family lived. I have justly banished thee out of my Dominions, because it was not fit I should suffer prophane Love to be made to a Nymph who had vowed her Chastity to me, as I had mine to her ; I have promised her my Protection and Assistance in all Things. Keep henceforward within my Kingdom, and assure thy self I wish thy Honour and Advancement, so far am I from doing thee any Discourtesy ; whithersoever Fortune shall dispose of thee ; be confident thou wilt never be out of the reach of my Care.*

With these Words the Waters of the River seemed to stir themselves into a gentle Curl ; which being presently laid, it became as smooth as it was before. I immediately found my self (by what Adventure I know not) in a Kitchen Garden in the midst of a Bed of
Marigolds

' Marigolds, which I judged a good Omen, and
 ' thought my self obliged to derive my Name
 ' from thence. Afterwards, at my Baptism, I
 ' took the Name of *Peter Gill of Galicia*, taking
 ' the Sir-name from the Kingdom which had
 ' been heretofore in the possession of my Prede-
 ' cessors, who have been dead these four hun-
 ' dred Years, as I find in History ; besides, that
 ' Name I have taken as an additional Title, as
 ' that of *Knight of the most noble Order of the Ma-
 ' rigold* ; I have assumed it to my self, for an
 ' Illustrious Hero as I am, may be his own He-
 ' rald, and by what Application he pleases,
 ' raise him self above the Sphere of the common
 ' Sort of People.

' Thus have I given your Excellency an Ac-
 ' count who I am, and discovered to you my
 ' my true Original. If the Qualities and En-
 ' dowments I am Owner of, deserve the Hon-
 ' our to be received into your Alliance, give
 ' me leave, most Illustrious Marqueß, to make
 ' my Addresses to this resplendant Beauty,
 ' this Miracle of our Age, whom Nature in a
 ' pleasant Humour was pleased to frame for the
 ' Delight of the Eyes, and the Torment of
 ' Hearts. I only expect your Consent, grant it
 ' me, I beseech you, and thereby satisfy my
 ' extraordinary Passion ; I think you so gene-
 ' rous that you will not deny it me, if you con-
 ' sider my Life is concerned therein, which you
 ' know is the most Illustrious of any in *Europe*,
 ' and are consequently satisfied, that the World
 ' losing in me the most renowned Knight it ever
 ' had, must withal lose the worthiest Kinsman
 ' of his Catholick Majesty King *Philip*.

He delivered the last Words with such pleasant Gestures, the better to express the Violence of his Passion, that the Marquess and his Daughter had much ado to forbear Laughing; *Felician* was astonish'd to observe the Force of that Passion, which made a ridiculous Coxcomb of an accomplished Gentleman; and could change a Person of eminent Prudence and Judgement, who not long being in *Flanders* was consulted as an Oracle, into a Counterfeit Extravagant. However, if he had not pretended the Loss of his Wits, he had lost all hopes of his Love, and could never have gotten near so fair a Lady, upon any Account but that of Madness.

The Marquess at length composing his Countenance, returned him this Answer; '*Signior Don Pedro Gill*, the most Illustrious, and only Knight of the noble Order of the Marigold; I am extreamly pleas'd with the knowing you have given me of your Person, and the Account you have entertained me with of your Miraculous Birth, and Royal Education. Had a Person less renowned than your self acquainted me therewith, should have mistrusted his Discourse, and imagined he had related Fables; but a Gentleman of your Value and Dignity ought to be credited in all Things; what further confirms me in the Truth thereof, is, that he is no less than a Prince who speaks to me. Believe me, Sir, I have a great Respect for your rare Qualities, and such an Honour for your Person, that I would assure you my own is at your Service. I have such an Esteem for your Friendship that I shall endeavour the continuance of it while I live. I wish myself a Native Inhabitant of this
' Kingdom,

' Kingdom, that I might have the greater Op-
 ' portunities to further your Satisfaction.
 ' shall stay here but till such Times as his Im-
 ' perial Majesty shall send Order to my Return
 ' but during my Residence here, you may com-
 ' mand any Thing within my Power. As for
 ' the Permission, you desire to make your Ad-
 ' dresses to my Daughter, I from this Time
 ' give it you, and I allow her to accept of it
 ' and to entertain you kindly ; but I must in-
 ' form you likewise, that she is already made
 ' sure to a Cousin of her's, and I have sent to
 ' Rome for a Dispensation ; which once come
 ' the Marriage will be consummated. This
 ' Obstacle lyes in your Way, and you will find
 ' it a difficult Matter to remove it. I am for-
 ' ry I had not the happiness of your Acquaint-
 ' ance before ; for how gladly should I have en-
 ' braced a Son-in law of your Dignity and Ac-
 ' complishments, and to see my Family Allied
 ' to the Blood-Royal of *Galicia*. The End of
 ' most Courtships is Marriage, of yours you see
 ' it cannot be, to address your self to my Daugh-
 ' ter upon any other Account I know you would
 ' not ; the Husband she expects is a Person of
 ' so much Gallantry that he will never endure
 ' such an Affront.

The disguised Lunatick broke forth into plea-
 sant Resentments upon this obliging Discourse,
 which was a geat Diversion to all that were
 present ; but having laughed their fill, the
 Marquess and his Daughter could not forbear
 making charitable Reflections on that strange
 kind of Distraction. It pitied them to see a
 Gentleman every Way so accomplished fallen into
 such unheard of Extravagancies, as to alledge

him

him self descended from a River, and brought
up in it five hundred Years before. While some
that were present opposed the Stories he had
told them, on purpose to urge him to speak, and
he endeavoured to give them Satisfaction :
The Marquess acquainted his Daughter with a
Thought that came into his Mind, which was
to carry Don *Pedro* along with them to *Valledolid*,
it being likely he would find them excellent
Sport by the Way. They resolved to treat him
as a Person of eminent Quality, having under-
stood by his Servant that he was really such, and
that after a great Fit of Sicknefs that Malady
had seized him. The Lady *Margaret* was very
well pleased with the Motion, intending to
take an Opportunity to acquaint him therewith.
Don *Pedro* coming to take his leave of the Mar-
quess, desired him, that since he was so unhappy
as not to deserve his accomplished Daughter in
the way of Marriage, he would allow him to love
her with a virtuous Love, such as e'en her Hus-
band should not dislike ; the Marquess consen-
ted to it, desiring that he would honour him
with his Company at Supper that Night, be-
cause he had somewhat to communicate to
him. Don *Pedro* gladly accepted the Invitation,
and thereupon they parted:

The Marquess and his Attendants discoursed
much of Don *Pedro*, admiring the strange Kind
of Frenzy he had fallen into, and acquainted
them with the Design he had to carry him to
Court. The Master of the House where he
lodged happening to be then present, told him,
that he doubted Don *Pedro* would hardly be per-
suaded thereto, if the Marquess treated him as
an Inferiour, for he was wondrously Self-con-
ceited.

conceited, and stood much upon his Honour but if he were willing, there would arise another Difficulty in the Manner of his Travelling; ' In Regard, said he, your Excellency going by Litter, I think he would be loth to go by Horse: We'll find an Expedient for that, ' says the Marquess, which is, that my Daughter, as his Mistress, should command him to entertain her at the Side of her Litter; for if his Love continue he will be glad of the Opportunity, and he shall be provided with an excellent Horse, richly harnessed, which I have led after me to ride on when I am weary of my Litter.

Don *Pedro*, who had been acquainted with all these Discourses, failed not to come to Supper to which he was invited. The Marquess received him very civilly, and caused a Chair to be set for him near his Daughter, which he reckoned a very signal Favour. They talked of several Matters, the Marquess finding he had an excellent Wit in his Interval, which was ever concluded with some pleasant Extravagance, they were very merry at Supper, being obliged to the diverting Discourses of Don *Pedro*. Supper ended, the Marquess thus discoursed him.

' It is a thousand Pities, most renowned Knight, that a Person so accomplished as you are, and furnished with all the worthy Endowments that recommend Persons to the Favour and Esteem of Princes, should seem to defy their Courts, and waste your Time and Talents in such an obscure Villages as this is; I heard, that the Reason of your Retirement is because you have not an Estate to appear at Court according to your Quality, and the Port

' you

you should maintain. If it be so, give me leave to propose an Expedient to you, out of the particular Favour I have for your Highness ; I shall take it as a great Favour if you will be pleased to go along with me to *Valledolid*, where you shall be treated in my Quarters, with all the Submissions and Respects due to a Person of your Dignity, yet so that it shall not be chargeable to you. By this Means coming to be known, and your Worth being published, you may meet with a rich Wife of some Illustrious Family, wherein my Daughter may be serviceable to you, having Occasion to visit many of her Sex, and may advance you into the Favour of her for whom he had most Inclination. Let me obtain of your Honour the Kindness I desire of you ; live freely with us since you would have me believe that the Love you profess to have for my Daughter is pure and sincere ; I will undertake it shall be taken kindly by the Husband she hopes to have. I expect your Answer to this Particular, which I desire may be agreeable to the Esteem I have for you.

Don *Pedro* was extreamly satisfied that his pretended Frenzy succeeded so well, and immediately apprehended, that living in the House with the Marquess, he should be near her whom he adored, which was the main end of his Desires ; whereupon he returned him this Answer ; No Temptation in the World should have induced me to remove from this Place, were I not sensible of the extraordinary Civilities I have received from your Excellency ; I resolved to end my Days in this Solitude, as conceiving it the best Course for a Person of my Quality
 whose

' whose Revenues are much below his Honour, failed r
 ' confine him self where he is not general, vertiv
 ' known, and to avoid the Charge of Servant, The
 ' and Equipage; but the high Respect you would
 ' pleased to shew me, together with this toward t
 ' scendent Beauty, who by the irresistable arough
 ' tractions of her charming Countenance, draw that th
 ' Hearts after her, as it is fabled *Orpheus* di portine
 ' living Creatures, Stones, and Plants, by that F
 ' harmonising Sound of his Harp, have made m oth
 ' wholly devoted to her Service; I shall not they a
 ' trouble either you or my self, to acquaint you se h
 ' how Persons of my Dignity expect to be treat the m
 ' ed, as thinking it sufficient that I have already of t
 ' acquainted you with my Titles, and partic need
 ' larly that I am of the Blood-Royal. The great is a
 ' est Favour you can do me is, that you com capa
 ' mand me to wait on your Daughter, which him
 ' if you please to allow, I shall the more will and
 ' lingly accept of the Proposal you are pleased Wo
 ' to make me. bly

The Marques finding him willing to accom bat
 pany them, all that remained to be done, was fea
 to persuade him to do it on Horseback, which cie
 he was content to do, that he might the better lik
 entertain his Mistress at the Side of her Litter, in
 Don *Pedro* helped the Lady into the Litter, being my
 much elevated in his Mind at this first Essay en
 his Service, and that he had the Happiness At
 take her by the fair Hand, continuing his At co
 tendance on her from their departure from *Pant- im*
ferrada, till they came to *Valledolid*. All the d
 Way they passed he entertained her with plea a
 sant Amusements, intermixed with Amorous a
 Expressions, and at every Inn they came to, she c
 failed

ailed not to give her Father an Account of the
vertive Stories she had heard from Don *Pedro*.
The last Day of their Journey, Don *Pedro*
ould needs try his Mistress's Inclinations to-
ward the Marriage she was designed for, and
brought in the Business with so much Subtilty,
that she might not think him guilty of any im-
pertinent Curiosity. It is usually observed,
by that Persons any way disturbed in their Minds
made no others, but especially to those with whom
all no they are familiarly acquainted. Accordingly to
int you ease her own Disquiet, and satisfy Don *Pedro*,
he made him this Answer; 'Renowned Knight,
of the noblest Order of the Marigold, I must
needs acknowledge, that my Cousin *Leopoldus*
is a Person furnished with all the Qualities
capable to endear the Love of any Woman to
him, but I will withal discover him to be fickle,
and one so naturally inclined to all Sorts of
Women, not regarding whether they be no-
bly or basely descended, that it very much a-
bates my Affection toward him, and makes me
fear his Alliance, though I find my self suffi-
ciently inclined thereto, could I perceive any
likelihood of his reforming him self of that
insufferable Humour; but far from that since
my coming into *Spain*, when he should have
endeavoured to give me greater Assurances of his
Affection, I find him as indifferent and un-
concerned for me as ever; and you cannot
imagine with what sad Apprehensions I am in-
duced to condescend to this Match; for I am
affrighted at the Thoughts of his Miscarriages,
and what have I not to fear when he shall be-
come my Master? The Obedience I owe to
my Father, and the Necessity I find that this
Marriage

‘ Marriage should be concluded, for composing
 ‘ some Differences in our Family, make me
 ‘ wholly passive in the Business, and consent
 ‘ should go forward. I admit of his Address
 ‘ not without some Violence, and all I can do
 ‘ is to wish and pray that he may be inspired
 ‘ with better Resolutions.

Don *Pedro* could have wished she had not been
 so Constant as she appeared to be ; he therefore
 though personing an Idiot, answered as a wise
 Man, and advised her to bear a while with the
 Failings of her Cousin ; ‘ Despair not, Ma-
 ‘ dam, said he, but that Don *Leopoldus* may be-
 ‘ come another Man, and that if he be such as
 ‘ you describe him, when he shall come to be
 ‘ possessed of so amiable and accomplished a La-
 ‘ dy.’ Notwithstanding this Discourse he resolv-
 ed to express his Mind to her in other Terms
 with the first Opportunity, and to make a full
 Discovery of his Love to her.

They came that Day to *Valledolid* and *Leopoldus*
met them half a Day short of it. He was
 very kindly received both by the Marquess and
 his Daughter, whereat the disguised Don *Pedro*
 was not a little concerned ; for finding *Leopoldus*
 a very graceful Person, he began to enter-
 tain some Doubts of the Success of his Enter-
 prize. The Marquess thought fit to make him
 acquainted with Don *Pedro*, that by the Charac-
 ter he gave him might accordingly treat him ;
 ‘ Nephew, said he, pray take Notice of this
 ‘ Noble Cavalier who hath honoured us with his
 ‘ Company from *Galicia*, for his Person and the
 ‘ worthy Qualities he is Master of are such as de-
 ‘ serve the highest Esteem. I desire you to re-
 ‘ spect him accordingly, and assure your self

‘ all

all the Honour you can do him will be below his Merit, not only upon the Account of the Blood-Royal from which he is descended, but also the Romantick Title he assumes to himself, of *The Knight of the honourable Order of the Marigold*. He pretends a Jurisdiction over all those Places where-ever any of that Herb grows, and never sees it but he thinks of the Complexion of a Mistress he once had, who spent most of her Time in the Kitchen-Gardens, in in one whereof it was Love's Pleasure to make him a Captive to her Beauty as she was gathering some Marigolds.

This Description made Don *Leopoldus* take a particular Notice of Don *Pedro*, and he doubted not as well his Habliments, as by the Fantastick Title he had taken to him self, to conclud him a most transcendant Extravagant, and that as such they had entertained him in their Company. Accordingly, to comply with her Uncle, he made this Compliment to Don *Pedro*: 'Most honourable Knight of the Marigold, I shall receive your Acquaintance with as great a Satisfaction as I shall that of the greatest Monarch in the World, and think my self extreemly obliged to you, that being a Person of so extraordinary Accomplishments, you were pleased to honour the Marquess my Uncle, and my Cousin with you Company so far out of your Territories: In acknowledgement of that Favour be pleased to accept the Offer I make you, of being ever your affectionate and most humble Servant, that which I cannot expect a higher Relation to you, when I consider the Character my Uncle hath been pleased to give you.

Don *Pedro* returned him most humble Thanks in the following Terms : ‘ My Lord, I have a high an Esteem for whatsoever this fair Lady is concerned in, that I shall make it my Business to sacrifice all that you think excellent in me to her Satisfaction and yours, as long as it shall please his Excellency to give me leave to be of his Retinue. How, replies *Leopoldus*, may we then expect that farther Happinets as to enjoy your Company for some Time?—I see no Reason you have to be so glad of it, says the *Marquis*, for you are to know, that Don *Pedro* Gill is fallen deeply in Love with your Cousin, and that it is his Affection to her, which hath occasioned our Acquaintance; though he hath assured me, that since he understands she was designed for you, that Love is changed into a pure fraternal Friendship, and from that innocent Passion, he endeavours to oblige her what lies in his Power : Be pleased to take my further Assurance of it, says Don *Pedro*, that no Thought thereof may break your Rest; for that Consideration set aside, I should think my self capable of raising a Jealousy even *Narcissus* himself, were he now alive; for I dare, without Vanity affirm, that no Man on Earth can be compared to me, either for the Comeliness of my Person, or the Endowments of my Mind. I am sufficiently convinced of the Truth of what you say replies *Leopoldus*, though my Acquaintance with you be so short, and therefore wholly relying on the Promise you have made me, I shall fear nothing from your Pretensions which were they any other Man’s, I should not be guilty of so great an Indifference.

With these Discourses they arrived at Court, and the Ambassador being alighted at his House, he found there several Ladies impatiently expecting the arrival of the beautiful Lady *Margaret*, who was received out of her Litter into the Arms of her designed Husband ; whereat Don *Pedro* could do no less than receive a little Jealousy. *Leopoldus* to make early Demonstrations of his Love had provided a magnificent Supper ; to which all those of both Sexes were invited, who came thither to wait upon the Ambassador and his Daughter.

Don *Pedro* retired to Bed presently after Supper, extreemly troubled in Mind, that he had engaged him self in an Enterprize, wherein he found such insupportable Difficulties. He could think of no Method to make his Business bear, or come off with any Kind of Credit : He met with too many Obstacles, and that which afflicted him most, was the Resolution the Lady had taken to satisfy her Father's Intentions, who was desirous the Marriage should be consummated with *Leopoldus*, though he had been acquainted with his Miscarriages as well as she. *Felician* could not but murmur at his Master's Proceedings, who had exposed him self, as an Extravagant Person, in a Court where he might have gained Esteem, and yet without the least Hope of accomplishing his Design, running him self daily into new Inconveniencies. The Master and Servant spent some Part of the Night in discoursing about the Affair, till at length Don *Pedro* fell asleep, having before taken up a Resolution to discover him self openly to his Mistress, and if his Addresses were not well entertained by her, to return immediately into *Galicia*.

The Visits of the Cavaliers and Ladies continued six Days, during which the Marquess and his Daughter were often seen, both of them being extremely pleased with the Demeanour of Don *Pedro*, who acted the Part he had assumed admirably well, and his Extravagancies became the Discourses of the whole Court, all speaking of him as one of the most humourous Fools that had come upon the Stage for a long Time; inso-much that some advised the Ambassador to bring him to the Palace, assuring him the King would be much pleased with his Behaviour. Don *Pedro* having Notice of it seemed to be very much concerned, and excused him self, out of an apprehension that his Majesty might not entertain him according to his Dignity and Extraction; that he was resolved not to hazard the receiving an Affront, and that the least Disrespect shewed him, would force him to violent Resentments thereof; the Ambassador urged the Matter no farther, lest he might put him out of Humour, perceiving he disliked the Proposal, referring it to another Time, when haply he might find him more inclined to a Compliance.

Leopoldus, who was lodged in the Ambassador's House, had only two Servants to wait on him, whom he trusted with the Knowledge of all his Love-Adventures. It happened that both these fell sick at the same Time, a Season wherein he should have shewed more Reservedness in his Amours, to gain the greater Esteem from his Lady; but he on the contrary minding only Enjoyments, and never considering the present Posture of his Affairs, continued his Night-Visits as he was wont to do before her Arrival: Being thus disappointed of their Attendance, who

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were best acquainted with his Humours, he was of Opinion he could not find a fitter Person to accompany him, than *Felician*, who with the leave of *Don Pedro*, went along with him. Finding him a subtle Fellow, and experienced in such Intrigues, he thought him a Person fit for his Purpose, and that he might confide in him in all Things. He took him along with him three or four Nights together to a certain House, out of which he came at a very unseasonable Hour. Though *Felician* went in with him, yet he durst not be so impertinately inquisitive, as to ask who was the Mistress of the House, till he had waited on him thither for some Time, and then happening to be alone with the Servant Maid, who taking Example by her Mistress, began to express some Kindness for him; he asked her whose House that was, and to whom *Leopoldus* made his Visits. Love and Secrecy are seldom found in the same Breast. She was a Servant, and in Love with *Felician*, and to make it appear, she satisfied him in whatever he desired to know. *Felician* understood by her, that the House belonged to his Master *Don Pedro's* Aunt, and that his own Sister was the Person with whom *Leopoldus* lay at Rack and Manger, upon a Promise of Marriage which she had exacted from him a while before under his Hand; she, by reason of her Retireness being innocently ignorant of the Treaty of Marriage between him and the Lady *Margaret*.

Felician being acquainted with all these Particulars, failed not to give his Master an Account of them the next Day; *Don Pedro* was extremely surprized thereat, not without Indignation against his Sister, though that Prudence of

Leopold raised in him some Hope of effecting his Design ; presuming the more thereupon, in that she be equal to *Leopold* in Birth, he resolved he should never Marry any other than her whom he had so highly dishonoured. He thereupon ordered *Felician* to acquaint the Servant, who had made these Discoveries to him, that the Marriage of *Leopold* with his Cousin was agreed upon, and that a Messenger was sent to *Rome* for the Dispensation ; not forgetting to display the rare Accomplishments of the Lady *Margaret* ; that so she might acquaint his Sister therewith, to see what Course she would take to remedy the Affront intended her.

Felician punctually executed the Order he had received from *Don Pedro*, so that the Night following *Donna Blanca*, (for so was *Don Pedro*'s Sister called) was acquainted with the whole Business : She thereupon had a great Contest with *Leopoldus*, who confidently denied that he made any Engagement as to the Marriage of his Cousin. In short, having said all he could in his own Vindication, and to appease *Donna Blanca*, she pretended to be satisfied with his Allegations, provided he more clearly justified his Innocence the next Morning. So she disssembled *Leopoldus*, who went away well pleased, imagining her to be so too ; but resolving with him self not to make her another Visit for some Time, he pretended he was indispose. *Don Pedro* understood that Night all which had passed between *Leopoldus* and his Sister, and was extremely enraged against her, that she had given Credit to the deceitful Words of a perfidious Man ; however, he thought fit to let pass two Days to see what Measures his Sister would

take

ake in that Time, charging *Felician* to prosecute his Discoveries.

The next Day *D. Leopold* not coming to clear him self as he promised, *Donna Blanca* was so perplexed that she could stay no longer, but resolved to be satisfied by the Ambassador him self of the Wrong designed against her Honour. She took Coach, and veiling her Face came to his House, but at such an unfortunate Time, that she met *Leopold* at the Door; he discovering who she was, presently supposed what might be the Occasion of this Visit, and that her coming thither, was to acquaint the Ambassador, how he was engaged to her, and to shew him the Promise of Marriage. Don *Leopold* received her with extraordinary Kindness, which she interpreting otherwise than he expected increased her Suspicion. He told her he had something particular to acquaint her with, and intreated her to go with him into a Room some Distance from his Uncle's Lodgings. *Donna Blanca* would not for a long while be persuaded to give him that Satisfaction, telling him, That he must first speak with the Ambassador, and afterward he should discourse her as long as he please. This *Leopoldus* endeavoured to prevent, assuring her, he was very busie at that Time in perusing a Packet of Letters he had received from the Emperor. He was so importunate with her to hear him before she spoke to the Ambassador, that at length he prevailed, whereupon conducting her to Don *Pedro's* Chamber, he enreated him to keep her Company till he came back to speak with her.

Donna Blanca being veiled all this Time, Don *Pedro* did not know her, but by the Discoveries

he had received, he suspected her to be his Sister. On the other Hand he was so transformed by the Extravagance of his Cloaths, and what much added to his Disguise, his perpetual wearing of Spectacles, that she could not have the least Thought that he was her Brother. Don *Pedro* talked with her a while, without enquiring the Occasion of her coming thither ; and at last leaving her locked up in the Room, he went to look for Don *Leopold*, to know how he should dispose of her. He was then busie with his Uncle, and sent one to desire Don *Pedro* to entertain the Lady a while longer, and that he would come as soon as he could to dispatch her. Don *Pedro* returning to his Apartment, immediately locked the Door.

In the mean Time the Lady *Margaret* understood that her Cousin had been talking with a Woman with her Face veiled, in one of the Walks leading to the Ambassador's House, and desired Don *Pedro* to conduct her to his Chamber. The Jealousy she conceived thereat whetted her Desire to know who she might be, which she could easily discover, because there was a Passage from her Lodgings to those of Don *Pedro*, and at the End of it a Door whereof she had the Key. She opened it very softly, lest she might be perceived, and that just as Don *Pedro* coming into the Chamber, found his Sister with her Face unveiled, expecting to be seen only by Don *Leopold*, whom she staid for ; as soon as he strictly viewed her, he made his Discourse to her.

‘ Ungracious and unhappy Woman, Unworthy of the Family from which thou art descended, or that I should call thee Sister ! Is it possible that thou shouldest be guilty of so
‘ strange

strange an Oblivion of thy self, as, relying, on the vain Promises of a treacherous Person, to come in this House to seek him, who hath abused thee, and to whom thou hast impudently prostituted thy self? Comest thou to importune a Man, that hath forgotten thee, and to court him, who hath so palpably deceived thee? If besotted with fond Love, it be thy Design to be married to him, thou hast Friends to whom thou mightest have communicated thy Desires, rather than to have abandoned thy self to a Man who treats thee with so much Contempt, and notwithstanding all his Carelesses, laughs at thee behind behind thy Back. He is upon the Point of marrying his Cousin; art thou so stupid that thou art only ignorant of what is known all over the Court? Had I not a Respect for the Place where thou art, this Sword should send thy Criminal Soul into the other World, and make thee an Example to all such foolish Wretches as thou art. Hast thou so far forgot the Respect due to thy Aunt, as to debauch her House, by assigning *Leopold* his Nightly-meetings in it? Thou shouldest have remembered that he is of no better Family than thy self, and that thy Quality is as high as his. It is a great Happiness to thee that an Humour took me to come to this Court, though thou seest me in this ridiculous Habit, to prevent what lies in my Power. *Leopold's* farther Abuse of thee, which I will do with the Hazard of my Life. Tell me infamous Woman, who hath passed between you, that I may take some Course therein, and dissemble not the Truth in any Thing, for it concerns thee no less than thy Honour and thy Life.

The disconsolate Donna *Blanca* heard this Discourse with her Eyes fastened to the Ground, and flowing with Tears, without giving him the least Interruption; but at length in Obedience to her Brother, whose Indignation she was sensible was grounded, she acquainted him in a few Words, that *Leopold* having seen her at a publick Meeting had a Kindness for her, and having enquired out her Lodgings, he had sent her several Letters; that continuing his Addresses to her with great Demonstrations of Affection she had granted him Entrance into her House; and that upon a Promise of Marriage under his Hand, which she then produced, she had permitted him to dispose of her as he pleased. In fine, she gave him a particular Account of all that was transacted between them; whereupon, not to aggravate her Afflictions, he gave her some Hopes, that *Leopold* should be obliged to perform the Promise he had given her.

The fair Lady *Margaret* had heard all this Discourse at the Door, which was between her Apartment and Don *Pedro's*, and was extremely surprized to think that a Person of such Quality, as she understood Don *Pedro* by his Discourse to be, and one of such an admirable Wit, could cloath him self in a Fool's Coat, and act the Part of an Extravagant in their House, and all about the Court. She was ignorant of the Causes of this strange Transformation, and yet had a kind of Suspicion it was upon her Account. On the other Hand she reflected on the double Treachery of her Cousin Don *Leopold*, in treating of a Marriage with her, when he had engaged him self to another, and she a Person so highly qualified, as Donna *Blanca* seemed to be.

Being

Being fully satisfied as to these two Things, she would not stay to hear their Discourse any longer, and rushed so suddenly into the Room upon them, that the Lady had no Time to veil her Face, nor he to dissemble the Passion he was in, seeing her coming toward him, ' Ah ! Madam, ' said he, what mean these Ambushes ? What ' is your Design therein, Sovereign Princess of ' my Soul, and absolute Disposer of my Inclinations ? Do you use such Treachery against ' those, who could not imagine you guilty of ' any such Thing ? I wish so accomplished a ' Beauty would not give me any such Apprehensions, for another Surprise of this Nature ' would make me expire out of pure Joy, as it ' hath been the Fortune of others to die from ' all Excess of Grief.

' There is no dissembling any longer, replies ' the Lady, *Margaret*, for I am fully satisfied ' you are not the Person you appear to us to be, ' and that the Affliction you really are in requires rather real Resentments than personated ' Extravagancies. My Curiosity heightened by ' a little Jealousy, procured me the Discovery ' of more than you imagine ; I have found the ' Perfidiousness of my Cousin *Don Leopold* ' greater toward me, than I could have suspected, ' considering his pretended Kindness ; I would ' willingly be delivered out of the Confusion I ' am in, and earnestly intreat you to resolve me ' this Riddle, for its Obscurity very much perplexes me ; but before you take that Trouble ' upon you, give me leave to conduct this Lady ' your Sister to my Lodgings, and if my Cousin ' *Leopold* comes in the mean Time to enquire ' after

‘ after her, you may tell him she went away
 ‘ much displeased at his long Stay ; and leave
 ‘ the Rest to me.’

Having so said, she took Donna Blanca along with her, assuring her she would do all that lay in her Power to serve her, which put her in some Hopes of succeeding better in her Affairs, than she could have derived from her Brother's Anger, or *Leopold's* Treachery. The Lady Margaret leaving Donna Blanca among her Women, returns to Don Pedro, who, though some what disturbed at the Sight of her at first, and the Thought of having over heard the Infamy of his Sister ; yet he was withal pleased that her Jealousy and Curiosity, had discovered his Metamorphosis, and the unhandsome Demeanour of his Cousin. Upon this Account, Don Pedro was glad to see his Mistress come back, as appeared by the Briskness of his Behaviour. She desired him to take a Chair, and seating herself, thus discoursed him.

‘ I have been extremely disturbed for some
 ‘ Days past, and so incensed against my Cousin
 ‘ Don *Leopold* to observe the Unhandsomeness
 ‘ of his Carriage, that I come to require your
 ‘ Advice, how far I ought to resent it ; and
 ‘ withal to be satisfied in some Matters, where-
 ‘ of I must yet acknowledge my self ignorant :
 ‘ One Thing I much wonder at, is, to see you
 ‘ counterfeiting the Idiot and Lunatick in a
 ‘ Court, where you might be rather expected to
 ‘ act the Part of a Person of Honour and Gal-
 ‘ lantry ; as having the Advantage of being
 ‘ Brother to so fine a Lady as Donna Blanca, who,
 ‘ besides the Recommendation of her Beauty,
 ‘ seems to be Mistress of many other worthy
 ‘ Qualities.

Qualities. You may infer from hence, that being of such Dignity as I suppose you are, you dishonour your self in representing a Natural, and a ridiculous Person, as well in Regard of the Habit you have assumed, as the extravagant Actions, wherewith you amuse the World, which, because I cannot imagine you would do, were there not some considerable Mystery in it, I am the more desirous to know your Motives thereto, because I conceive it will be a Means to clear my Mind of certain Doubts which do now somewhat perplex me.

Having delivered this with the best Grace in the World, the fair Lady sat silent, and left Don Pedro at Liberty to make a Reply, which he did as follows ; ‘ If you find me at any Loss, Madam, in satisfying your Desire in this Particular, I question not, but you will have the Goodness to attribute it to that Distraction poor Mortals are subject to, when they address themselves to the Objects of their Vows and Adorations : You cannot be Ignorant, dear Lady, if you do not know it by Experience, that Love is so powerful, that Men sacrifice all Things thereto : No Shapes, but he can counterfeit ; no Difficulties, but he can surmount to attain his Desires : This promised, I am in the next Place freely to acknowledge, that the Day you passed through *Ville-Franche*, which is the Place of my Birth, I found myself wounded with your beautiful Eyes ; I used my utmost Means to oppose this Passion, but all in vain, it still proved predominant, and the Engagement, which I understood was between you and your Cousin Don *Leopold*, could

' could make no Abatement thereof : Nay, tho'
 ' I knew all the Particulars of that Treary,
 ' wherein you rather complied with the Com-
 ' mands of a Father than your own Inclina-
 ' tions ; infomuch as you looked upon that too
 ' happy Kinsman as a fickle Person, unworthy
 ' of your Affection, a Truth I have since heard
 ' confirmed by your self ; nay, though I saw
 ' the Marriage in a manner concluded, yet all
 ' could not shock the Resolution I had taken to
 ' disguise my self, as you have seen, to prevent
 ' it, and now Fortune seems to favour my De-
 ' signs : I do not therefore repent, Madam, of
 ' the Disgrace I have put upon my Blood, and
 ' the Noble Family, from which I am descended,
 ' in acting the Fool's Part in your House, into
 ' which it was my Aim to introduce my self by
 ' all Means imaginable ; and the Imposture hath
 ' been so fortunate, that I begin to have some
 ' Hopes of attaining my Desires. You know,
 ' Madam, that I durst not presume to make a
 ' real Discovery of my self to you ; since, be-
 ' sides the Hazard I should have run of not find-
 ' ing Credit with you, I appeared at a Time,
 ' when your Marriage was in too great forward-
 ' ness to be easily hindred by after Applications.
 ' Briefly, it was my Fortune that a strange Con-
 ' junction of my Sister's Miscarriages, and your
 ' own just Jealousies, should occasion a Disco-
 ' very of what probably I should yet a while
 ' have kept from your Knowledge. My true
 ' Name is Don *Pedro Osorio*, and *Toledo*, and
 ' consequently I reckon my self one of the most
 ' Eminent Families in *Spain* ; since I am descen-
 ' ded from the Seigniors of *Ville-Franche* and
 ' *Astorga* ; I have the Honour to be Knight of
 ' the

the Order of *Alcantara*, which I have acquired by some Services performed for his Majesty in *Flanders*, with Hopes e're long to be gratified with an advantageous Commandery. Thus, Madam, I have given you an Account of my Quality, and have not concealed from you my Presumption. All I have now to Apologize for, is my Love, and I am the more confident of your Pardon in that Matter, if you do but consider the unavoidable Influence of your own Attractions. Nay, I cannot but count it an happy Offence since it hath proved the Occasion of my being undeceived; and when I make a Reflection, both on my own Happiness, and my Sister's Credulity, I cannot repent me of a Disguise, whereof the Satisfaction far exceeds the Scandal. For it is in your Power, worthy Lady, to restore me to the Honour I have deprived my self of only for your Sake; and I shall compel him who hath wheedled my Sister out of her Honour, to perform the Promise he hath made her, or it shall cost him his Life.

The Lady *Margaret* was extremely pleased with the Discourse of her disguised Lover, and judged her self obliged to make a suitable Return to so extraordinary a Demonstration of his Affection; and being now convinced of the Falseness of her Cousin, Don *Leopold*, she made him this Answer; ' *Seignior Don Pedro*, that you have upon so slight a Motive, as the little Beauty I can pretend to, engaged your self in an Enterprize so prejudicial to your Reputation and noble Descent, I cannot but look on as an unparrelled Expression of your Love; although I cannot wholly excuse you, since the

' *admirale*

' admirable Accomplishments you are blest with,
 ' might doubtless have been more worthily em-
 ' ploy'd. I have resent'd, as I ought, the little
 ' Respect my Cousin hath express'd toward me,
 ' and therefore it is but just he should not enjoy
 ' me, since it may be infer'd from his Forward-
 ' ness to engage him self to another, he had
 ' never any real Kindness for me : It is indeed
 ' a very great Satisfaction to me, that I am un-
 ' deceived before we were united by that Tie,
 ' which only Death can dissolve ; and assure you
 ' I shall do all that lies in my Power, to requite
 ' the sincere Affection you have shew'd toward
 ' me.

This was delivered with so obliging an Air,
 that the Amorous Cavalier was going to throw
 him self at her Feet, if she had not prevented
 him. He return'd her Thanks with all the Sub-
 missions, that so extraordinary a Favour, and
 the promising Encouragement which she was
 pleas'd to give to his Love deserved.

Donna *Blanca* was left in the Lady *Margaret's*
 Lodgings, whose Return she expected ; and Don
Pedro look'd for Don *Leopold* to come and en-
 quire after the Lady he had recommended to his
 Curiosity. The Lady *Margaret* went to comfort
 her, whom she had left among her Women, and
 to put in Execution what had been resolv'd be-
 tween her and Don *Pedro*. About half an Hour
 after Don *Leopold* came to his Chamber, to look
 for his Lady : Don *Pedro* told him, that he could
 detain her no longer, but she was gone, think-
 ing he would not come to her again : ' Nay,
 ' then I am glad I staid so long, says *Leopold*,
 ' since it hath been the Occasion of her doing
 ' what I would have had her do, which was, That
 ' she

he might be gone out of the House. This Woman plagues me extreamly, and it was no small Happiness to me, that she met not with my Uncle; for I should have been very much concerned, that she had any Discourse with him.' Don *Pedro* asked him some other Questions in his usual Manner, to make some further Discovery from him, but Don *Leopold* would tell him no more, though the other apprehended by these few Words he had uttered, what Course he intended to take; and the Indignation he had at his slighting his Sister, was so great, that it was not without great Violence done to himself that he forbore calling him to Account for it upon the Place.

In the mean Time the Lady *Margaret* had discoursed Donna *Blanca*, of whom she had received a particular Relation of her Loves, which she clearly confirmed by the Promise of Marriage in Writing, which she had brought with her; and having again seriously ruminated at the double Perfidiousness of her Cousin Don *Leopold*, she sent to desire her Father to come to her, who being alone with her she made him this Discourse:

'Sir, it hath ever been a laudable Custom, that Fathers should dispose of their Daughters in Marriage, as they either pleased them selves, or found most convenient for their Affairs, but with this Caution, that it should not be absolutely contrary to their Wills and Inclinations. Many are yet willing to do so, out of Presumption that Matrimony will change Mens Humours, but it is seldom found to work that Effect. Those therefore may be said to do well, who referring the Success to Fortune, comply
by

by an implicate Obedience with the disposal
 of their Parents; but those in my Opinion
 act more wisely, who use some Precautions and
 endeavour to prevent the Inconveniencies
 which they must otherwise fall into. I have
 ever been ready, Sir, to obey your Commands,
 especially in the Business now in Agitation.
 Though I have found my Cousin Don Leopoldo
 to be of a Disposition so contrary to mine,
 that I promised my self Satisfaction from our
 being joyned together in the inseparable State
 you intended. I have endeavoured to perform
 your Commands in all Things, and particular-
 ly in this, though with some Violence to my
 own Inclinations, which directed my Affection
 to other Persons, not inferior to him, either
 in Quality or Estate; I consented to this Mar-
 riage because you seemed so much to desire it.
 When it was fully concluded there was a Person
 sent to Rome for a Dispensation, and even dur-
 ing that Time, when I expected my Cousin
 should have expressed the most Love to me, I
 have found he hath done quite contrary, since
 he hath given a Promise of Marriage to ano-
 ther Lady, whom you shall presently see.

She thereupon called for Donna Blanca, whom
 she had left in her own Apartment, and who
 immediately came before the Ambassador; ha-
 ving seated her, the Lady Margaret continued
 her Discourse: ' This, Sir, is the Lady I men-
 tioned, to whom my Cousin hath given a Pro-
 mise of Marriage under his Hand, and you
 shall see how this perfidious Person became
 thereby Master of her Honour. Coming hi-
 ther to speak with you, and complain of the
 Wrong intended her, she met him, who
 giving

giving her plausible Words, locked her up in Don *Pedro's* Chamber, under Pretence that you were busie, and that it would be long before she could be admitted to you. Some little Curiosity occasioned my going to the Door, which is between my Lodgings and his, and there I came to the Knowledge of this Business; having over-heard some Part of their Discourse, I thought fit to bring this Lady to my Chamber to give you farther Satisfaction in so pressing a Truth. Her Quality is great, she being of the House of *Olorio*, and *Toledo*, two of the most Illustrious Families of *Spain*. She is resolved to make the Case known to her Friends, who were very Noble, and of great Credit in this Court, that they may oppose my Marriage, and prevent the Infamy that may be occasioned to their Family. I have hitherto obeyed you as a Father, I now appeal to you as my Judge, and beseech you to discharge me from so unjust an Obedience for the future: For I am resolved rather to confine my self in the most austere Monastery about this City, than ever to be a Wife to a Man, who is so insensible of Virture and Honour.

The Ambassador was extreamly surprized at what he saw and heard. He examined the Promise made to *Donna Blanca*, and found that this Discovery alone was a sufficient Cause to prevent his Daughter's Marriage with *Leopold*. He resolved immediately to break all to Pieces, and to dismiss his Nephew, that there might be no farther Discourse of the Business. He caused the Ladies to withdraw, and sent for him, to whom he shewed the Contract he had made to *Donna Blanca*,

lanca, asking him whether he knew the Hand : He, much disturbed, and changing Colour, began to deny it ; but the Ambassador told him, that since he could not do it justly, it would redound to his Dishhonour ; because the Truth thereof would be confirmed by several of his Letters written to her in the same Hand. At length *Leopold*, not without extream Confusion, acknowledged, that blinded by Love, he had indeed made that Engagement, but he would lose his Life e're he performed it.

Don *Pedro* having quitted his Fools Coat, and put on a very rich Suit with the Cross of *Alcantara* on his Cloak, heard this Discourse from a Corner of the Room where he was disposed, and not able to endure any longer : ' Seignior *Leopold*, said he, coming up to him, have a Care what you say, and consider her Quality whom you injure. Her Birth is at least as Noble as yours ; she is my Sister, and as such I am obliged to protect her : If you do not perform the Promise you have made her, I wear a Sword which shall compel you to do it, since Honour will not prevail with you. I have already considered what I am in Duty obliged to : As to that Point, replies Don *Leopold*, no Man shall force me, by Menaces, and to do any Thing against my own Inclination. This so enraged Don *Pedro*, that he gave Don *Leopold* a Challenge ; the Dispute increased, which obliged the Ladies to interpose between them, and to order all the Doors to be locked, that they might not get out to Fight.

While these Things passed, the Ambassador did not mind the Person of Don *Pedro*, and imagined him to be some Gentleman come thither after his Sister ; for seeing him well cloathed with

with the Cross of *Alcantara*, and without Spectacles, which he constantly wore, and had now laid aside, he did not know him; but having considered him better, he found that he who challenged his Nephew, was the same Person, who by his pleasant Extravagancies had made them so much Sport. The Lady *Margaret* perceiving her Father intirely viewing him with some Astonishment, imagined the Cause of it, and spoke thus to him: *The Gentleman, Sir, that you see in a Habit so different from what he used to wear, and who seemed so ridiculous to you is Don Pedro de Osorio and Toledo: When the Quarrel is over, you shall understand the Motives which induced him to take that Disguise.*

The Ambassador was still more surprized at this Discourse, and would have required his Daughter to make a farther Discovery of that Secret, had he not observed that the two Cavaliers had drawn their Swords, and were ready to fight a Duel in the Place: He ran in between them, and endeavoured, by soft Words, to persuade his Nephew not to hazard his Life in an Affair which he could not in Honour justify; and if he did not satisfy the injured Cavalier, Mischief would follow: That he should not rely upon any Protection he might hope for from him; inasmuch as seeing the little Reason he had on his Side, and the Wrong he intended that Lady, he should rather appear against him, by assisting his Adversary, than countenance you in so unjust a Business; that as to his Daughter, he might set aside all Hopes of having her for his Wife, and that it would discover a Meanness of Spirit in her if she had any kind Thoughts

Thoughts of him after she had been so unworthily treated by him.

Don Leopold finding him self attacked with Reproaches on all Sides, and withal having some Remorse in his Mind, thought it best to follow his Uncle's Counsel. He thereupon with open Arms went and embraced his Mistress, to whom he once more gave his Hand as an Husband, and then assured his Brother-in-law of his Friendship, whom he yet knew not. The Lady *Margaret* thought it a proper Opportunity, before the whole Company, to give her Father an Account, how *Don Pedro* had fallen in Love with her, and upon that Account he got him self into his Retinue in the Quality of a Jester; that she judged her self obliged to requite the extraordinary Demonstrations of his Affection to her, by an Exchange of hers to him, if her Father approved theteof. The old Gentleman had so much Mettal left, as to admire the strange Conduct of Love in all its Operations; and particularly how it made the wisest Man Mad, and the Mad Wise, making it's Advantages of Extravagancy it self to compass it's Designs. Upon these Considerations, without any further Demur, he gave his Consent; whereupon the Lady *Margaret* took him by the Hand, and *Don Pedro* was so happy as by odd and unlikely Means to see all his Desires accomplished.

The Solemnities of both the Marriages were deferred till eight Days after, and all the Gentlemen about the Court were present at them; the Balls and Tilting were extraordinary; but what was more to their Advantage, was, that the

the King honoured these two Cavaliers with
profitable Employments. *Don Pedro* had a nu-
merous Issue of Children of both Sexes; for
which *Don Leopold* did not much envy him, be-
ing the most satisfied Man of the World with his
Choice, whom he entirely loved; and there-
fore made it appear, that the Inclinations of
two Persons before they are united by Matri-
mony, though by some intervening Occurrences
they may be somewhat remitted, may yet by that
sacred Union be heightened into a noble and
vigorous Flame of perfect Love.

F I N I S.



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